

**Mason County, Virginia, July 15<sup>th</sup> 1859**  
**Commonwealth vs William Bevier**  
**Box #1, Folder 8, Accession #36787**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**To John Letcher Esq. Governor of Virginia**

Dear Sir,

In the letter I had the honor of receiving from you regarding the case of Bevier you stated that it was necessary that you should have the evidence taken in the case of the Commonwealth vs William Bevier.

I have accordingly obtained it and herewith transmit it for your examination. In making this communication I will save you trouble by being as brief as possible.

It is very certain that Bevier had been very much harassed and persecuted by Hulfish and that for a length of time – and admitting the guilt of the former, the lost of the latter amounted according to his own statement amounted to only \$125.

I therefore hope and trust, that although he was guilty, that you will consider he has already suffered sufficiently for the magnitude of the offence – and I here renew my appeal to you given sympathies for his distressed wife and poor little helpless innocent children.

If you should release him, you will have many others as well as myself under lasting gratitude. With profound respect I have the honor to subscribe myself.

Your humble servant

T. P. Hereford M.D.

**(The following is the answer written on the back of the envelope – “This application is rejected. The prisoner is beyond all question guilty of the offence. John Letcher, March 1<sup>st</sup> 1860”) It also must be noted that Gov. Wise also rejected appeals April 21<sup>st</sup> 1859 and July 20<sup>th</sup> 1859.**

**Brentsville, Prince William County, Virginia, July 15<sup>th</sup> 1859**  
**Box #20, Folder 1, Accession #36787**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**To John Letcher Esq. Governor of Virginia**

Hon. John Letcher,

Dear Sir,

Mr. Martin Maddox of Alexandria solicits the appointment of “Inspector of Vessels” entering the Port of Alexandria. And I take great pleasure in announcing to your favorable consideration the application of Mr. Maddox being satisfied that if you should confer upon him the favor sought, you will find in him a most excellent and efficient officer. He possesses every qualification necessary to enable him to discharge faithfully the duties of said office. Mr. M. has I believe been a consistent Democrat for a number of years, and was a strong friend to you both before and since your nomination for governor.

If it shall be your pleasure to confer upon Mr. Maddox the position he seeks, the favor will be appreciated by

Your friend and obedient servant

W. G. Brawner

**Egypt, Prince William County, Virginia, September 26<sup>th</sup> 1859**  
**Box #19, Folder 7, Accession #36787**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**To John Letcher Esq. Governor of Virginia**

Hon. John Letcher,

Dear Sir,

Having been informed that Mr. Martin Maddox of Alexandria is desirous to obtain the appointment of “Inspector of Vessels” entering the Port of Alexandria. It is with great pleasure that I can recommend him to your favorable consideration for the position. I have known him favorably for many years, his energy, fidelity and

gentlemanly deportment eminently qualify him for the office, and should you favor him with the appointment (I doubt not but that he will discharge the duties faithfully, and honorably) it will be considered as a personal favour.

Yours Respectfully,  
A. Brawner

**Penitentiary of Virginia, February 18<sup>st</sup> 1860**  
**Pardon of John Cornwell**  
**Box #1, Folder 8, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4705**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**To John Letcher Esq. Governor of Virginia**

Sir,

At the request of Col. Lynn of Prince William County I herewith submit to you the following statement in relation to James Cornwell a convict sentenced to this Institution by the Circuit Court of Prince William County, for 16 years confinement for the crime of murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.

The said James Cornwell was received here the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 1856, was at the time of his reception 56 years of age, has been feeble during his confinement unable to perform any profitable labor. His deportment as a prisoner has been unexceptionable; and without knowledge of the grounds upon which his conviction was established, but in view of his conduct in this place, his feeble health and old age, the officers here with whom I have conversed, concur with me that he is a proper subject for the exercise of Executive Clemency.

With great respect I am yours &c.  
J. F. Pendleton Supt. of Va. Penty.

**Penitentiary of Virginia, February 21<sup>st</sup> 1860**  
**Pardon of John Cornwell**  
**Box #1, Folder 8, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4705**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**This paper to accompany pardon application**

Pleas at the Court House of Prince William County before the Circuit Court of said County on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 1856. Be it remembered that at this same term to wit, at a Circuit Court held for the County of Prince William, at the Court House on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year 1856. George Weedon, foreman, Hector Kincheloe, Burr Glascock, William F. Hodgkin, Austin B. Weedon, Christopher Windsor, Samuel Troth, James Maddox, George A. Cannon, Thomas Jones, John Fair, Thompson Fairfax, Alexander Pearson, Benson Davis, Hampton Brenton and Benjamin Johnson were sworn a Grand Jury of Inquest for the body of this County, and having received their charge, withdrew and after sometime returned into Court and presented an Indictment against James Cornwell for Murder (A True Bill) which indictment is in these words. To wit; Prince William County to Wit, In the Circuit Court of said County. The jurors of the Commonwealth of Virginia in and for the body of the County of Prince William and now attending the said Court upon their oaths present that James Cornwell on the twenty eighth day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty six, with force and arms in the county aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of the said court, in and upon one Thomas Turner in the Peace of God and the said Commonwealth, then and there being, feloniously and willfully and of his malice aforethought, did make an assault, and that the said James Cornwell with a certain knife of the value of twenty five cents, in his right hand then and there had and held, him the said Thomas Turner, in and upon the left side of the abdomen of him the said Thomas Turner, then and there, feloniously, willfully an of his malice aforethought, did strike and thrust giving to the said Thomas Turner then and there with the knife aforesaid, in and upon the aforesaid left side of the abdomen of him the said Thomas Turner one mortal wound of the breast of three inches and of the depth of three inches of which said Mortal Wound, the said Thomas Turner from the said twenty eighth day of August in the year aforesaid until the second day of September in the year aforesaid in the County aforesaid did languish and languishing did live. On which said second day of September in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Six the said Thomas Turner in the County aforesaid of the said, mortal wound died; and so the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say that the said James Cornwell the said Thomas Turner in manner and form aforesaid feloniously willfully and of his malice aforethought did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Eppa Hunton  
Attorney for Commonwealth

Upon the evidence of William F. Renoe, Samuel F. Davis and L. A. Jennings of Prince William County. Sworn and sent to give evidence to the Grand Jury by the Court.

And at the same day to wit: At a circuit court held for the said County of Prince William at the Court House on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 1856 James Cornwell late of the County of Prince William who stands indicted of Murder was set to the bar in custody of the jailor of this court arraigned of the said murder and pleaded not guilty of the indictment, whereupon came a jury to wit: Landy Dowell, Samuel T. King, B. G. Moxley, James Smith, David S. Robinson, Oscar F. Pattie, Michael House, Moses Lynn, Henry Calvert, Albert M. Arrington, Thomas R. Alexander, and Minor Fairfax who being elected tried and sworn the truth of and upon the premises to speak and having partly heard the evidence were with the consent of the prisoner committed to the custody of the Sheriff of this County who is directed to keep them together without communication with any other person and to cause them to appear here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock Whereupon an oath was administered to William E. Goodwin sheriff of this County and Thomas K. Davis his deputy to the following effect you shall well and truly to the best of your ability keep this jury and neither speak to them yourselves nor suffer any other person to speak to them touching every matter relative to this trial until they return into court tomorrow and the said James Cornwell is remanded to Jail, Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup> 1856 James Cornwell late of the County of Prince William who stands indicted of Murder was again led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of this Court and the Jury sworn for his trial to Wit: Landy Dowell, Samuel T. King, B. G. D. Moxley, James Smith, David S. Robinson, Oscar F. Pattie, Michael House, Moses Lynn, Henry Calvert, A. M. Arrington, Thomas R. Alexander, and Minor Fairfax were brought in to court by the sheriff of this county and having fully heard the evidence upon their oath do say that the said James Cornwell is guilty of Murder in the second degree and they do ascertain the time of his imprisonment in the public jail and penitentiary house to be sixteen years and the said James Cornwell thereupon moved the court to set aside the said verdict and grant a new trial under the indictment aforesaid which motion the court doth overrule to which opinion of the court the prisoner expected and tendered his bill of exception which was received signed and sealed by the court and ordered to be made part of the record in this cause whereupon he is remanded to jail, and now at this day to wit: Of a Circuit Court held for the County of Prince William on the same day and year first herein mentioned to wit: Thursday October the 16<sup>th</sup> 1856 James Cornwell late of the County of Prince William who stands convicted of murder in the second degree was again led to the bar in custody of the jailor of this county and thereupon it being of him if anything for himself he had or knew to say why the court here should not now proceed to pronounce judgment against him according to law and nothing being offered or alleged in delay of judgment it is considered by the court that the said James Cornwell be imprisoned in the public jail and Penitentiary House of this Commonwealth for the term of Sixteen years the period the Jurors in their verdict ascertained and it is ordered that the Sheriff of this County do as soon as possible after the adjournment of this court remove and safely convey the said James Cornwell from the Jail, of this court to the said public jail and penitentiary house therein to be kept imprisoned and treated in the manner directed by law and the court doth certify that on the trial of the said James Cornwell nothing appeared to the court either in aggravation or extenuation of the offence of the said James Cornwell nor did it appear that before the commission of the said offence he was of bad or good character or that he had ever been convicted or tried for any felony or other infamous crime and thereupon the said James Cornwell is remanded to Jail, and upon the application of the prisoner James Cornwell who suggests that he intends to apply for a writ of error in this case the court doth order that the execution of the sentence pronounced against him at this time be postponed for twenty days after the rising of the court.

Teste

Milton Fitzhugh, clerk

**Richmond Va. 1<sup>st</sup> October 1860**

**Box 6, Folder 1, Accession #36787**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Names and description of the twenty seven free negroes and nine slave convicts remaining in the custody of the James River and Kanawha Canal Company, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 1860.

Name of Free Negro-Frank G. Wynn Date Received – June 10<sup>th</sup> 1858

What Crime – wounding a white man

Where Sentence –Henrico County, Virginia Period of Time – 10 years

Height –5 feet 6 inches Age – 24 Complexion – nearly black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-John Th. Smith Date Received – June 24<sup>th</sup> 1858

What Crime – wounding cutting &c.  
Where Sentence –Petersburg City, Virginia Period of Time – 3 years  
Height –5 feet 7 inches Age – 36 Complexion – pale yellow Eyes –black Hair – dark (No.2)

Name of Free Negro-Eli Ellis Date received – July 5<sup>th</sup> 1858  
What Crime – store breaking  
Where Sentence –Surry County, Virginia Period of Time – 4 years  
Height –5 feet 7 inches Age – 36 Complexion – dark yellow` Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Jack Norvell Date Received – August 29<sup>th</sup> 1849  
What Crime – stabbing  
Where Sentence –Loudoun County, Virginia Period of Time – 15 years  
Height –5 feet 7 inches Age – 16 Complexion – brown Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Miltus Scott Date Received – September 20<sup>th</sup> 1852  
What Crime – murder 2<sup>nd</sup> degree  
Where Sentence –Buckingham County, Virginia Period of Time – 18 years  
Height –5 feet 6 inches Age – 43 Complexion – dark Eyes –black Hair – black (No.2)

Name of Free Negro-John W. Spratly Date Received – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1852  
What Crime – murder 2<sup>nd</sup> degree  
Where Sentence –Frederick County, Virginia Period of Time – 8 years  
Height –5 feet 1 ½ inches Age – 27 Complexion – black Eyes –black Hair – black ()

Name of Free Negro-Tom Harris Date Received – 22 December 1853  
What Crime – receiving stolen goods  
Where Sentence –Petersburg, Virginia Period of Time – 10 years  
Height –5 feet 7 ¼ inches Age – 42 Complexion – black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.2)

Name of Free Negro-Lewis Armistead Date Received – 12 December 1854  
What Crime – assault to kill &c.  
Where Sentence –Frederick County, Virginia Period of Time – 8 years  
Height –5 feet 8 inches Age – 37 Complexion – yellow Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Scotland Fields Date Received – 7 November 1855  
What Crime – malicious stabbing  
Where Sentence –Lynchburg, Virginia Period of Time – 5 years  
Height –5 feet 10 ¼ inches Age – 36 Complexion – yellow Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Jas H. Stevens Date Received – 11 January 1856  
What Crime – grand larceny  
Where Sentence –Fredericksburg, Virginia Period of Time – 8 years  
Height –5 feet 5 ¼ inches Age – 28 Complexion – black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-George Bundy Date Received – 23 January 1856  
What Crime – store breaking &c.  
Where Sentence –Culpepper County, Virginia Period of Time – 7 years  
Height –5 feet 6 ½ inches Age – 30 Complexion – yellow Eyes –black Hair – black (No.2)

Name of Free Negro-William H. Jackson Date Received – 20 March 1856  
What Crime – burglary & larceny  
Where Sentence –Richmond County, Virginia Period of Time – 10 years  
Height –5 feet 2 ½ inches Age – 29 Complexion – black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Redmon Thomas Date Received – 15 May 1856  
What Crime – murder 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

Where Sentence –Loudoun County, Virginia Period of Time – 11 years  
Height –5 feet 5 ¾ inches Age – 28 Complexion – black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-John Roberts Date Received – 11 August 1856  
What Crime – stealing a mule  
Where Sentence –Lynchburg County, Virginia Period of Time – 7 years  
Height –5 feet 3 ¾ inches Age – 29 Complexion – brown Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-James Parker Date Received – 18 October 1856  
What Crime – grand larceny  
Where Sentence –Winchester, Virginia Period of Time – 4 years  
Height –5 feet 4 ½ inches Age – 18 Complexion – brown Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Peter Hines Date Received – 19 March 1857  
What Crime – robbery  
Where Sentence –Henrico County, Virginia Period of Time – 4 years  
Height –5 feet 6 ¾ inches Age – 18 Complexion – yellow Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Thomas Freeman Date Received – 19 March 1857  
What Crime – robbery  
Where Sentence –Henrico County, Virginia Period of Time – 4 years  
Height –5 feet 5 ½ inches Age – 30 Complexion – dark Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Ned Young Date Received – 21 April 1857  
What Crime – burglary &c.  
Where Sentence –Lunenburg County, Virginia Period of Time – 5 years  
Height –5 feet 4 ½ inches Age – 22 Complexion – dark gingerbread Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Ransome Haywood Date Received – 29 April 1857  
What Crime – stabbing  
Where Sentence –Surry County, Virginia Period of Time – 5 years  
Height –5 feet 4 ¾ inches Age – 47 Complexion – nearly dark Eyes –black Hair – black (No.2)

Name of Free Negro-Charles Green Date Received – 24 July 1857  
What Crime – grand larceny  
Where Sentence –Richmond, Virginia Period of Time – 10 years  
Height –5 feet 5 ¾ inches Age – 19 Complexion – black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Charles Grazer Date Received – 21 September 1857  
What Crime – grand larceny  
Where Sentence –Henrico County, Virginia Period of Time – 8 years  
Height –5 feet 8 inches Age – 40 Complexion – black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-George Dade Date Received – 23 September 1857  
What Crime – burglary  
Where Sentence –Prince William County, Virginia Period of Time – 10 years  
Height –5 feet 4 ½ inches Age – 30 Complexion – yellow Eyes –gray Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-John Jenkins Date Received – 25 March 1858  
What Crime – grand larceny  
Where Sentence –Jefferson County, Virginia Period of Time – 3 years  
Height –5 feet 10 ½ inches Age – 30 Complexion – nearly black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Thomas Fox Date Received – 22 April 1858  
What Crime – murder 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

Where Sentence –Alleghany County, Virginia Period of Time – 10 years  
Height –5 feet 3 ¾ inches Age – 35 Complexion – black Eyes –black Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Henry Thacker Date Received – 17 May 1858  
What Crime – house breaking  
Where Sentence –Richmond, Virginia Period of Time – 3 years  
Height –5 feet 7 ¾ inches Age – 28 Complexion – light yellow Eyes –brown Hair – black (No.1)

Name of Free Negro-Nancy Crowley Date Received – 16 October 1856  
What Crime – murder 2<sup>nd</sup> degree  
Where Sentence –York County, Virginia Period of Time – 12 years  
Height –4 feet 2 ¾ inches Age – 12 Complexion – yellow Eyes –black Hair – black

Name of Free Negro-Mary Tines Date Received – 3 June 1857  
What Crime – grand larceny  
Where Sentence –Norfolk City, Virginia Period of Time – 5 years  
Height –5 feet 4 ½ inches Age – 18 Complexion – yellow Eyes –black Hair – black

**Richmond Va. 1<sup>st</sup> November 1860**

**Box 6, Folder 1, Accession #36787**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

A list showing the names, number and classification of the Free Negro and Slave Convicts now in the custody of Rosser & Lurnis and who have been re-hired to said Rosser & Lurnis for the year 1861 at the same rates as those herein before mentioned.

No1 Free Negro Men	No.2 Free Negro Men
Robert Evans	Burwell Clayton
Henry Jackson	Samuel Brittenghan
James Armstead	
James Ellis	No. 2 Slaves
John Gaines	Jim from Culpepper
Benjamin Cane	Spencer Gilbert
	Jim from Rockingham
No. 1 Slaves	John Red
Jim – from Prince William	
David	
Mathew	Women
Jack	Mary
Ben	Mary Jane Mills
Taylor Brown	Ellen
Spoll	Narcissa
Philip	
George	
Isreal	

Making six number 1 free negro and ten no. 1 Slave Men – 16 at the rate of \$175 each per annum: two No.2 free negro Men and 4 no. 2 Slaves making six at the rate of \$95 each per annum: four Women at the rate of \$50 each per annum.

**Prince William County, Virginia, October 16<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Pardon of John Cornwell**

**Box #1, Folder 8, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4705**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Dear Governor, according to promises when we parted, I was to write you in this month respecting the case of James Cornwell a convict in the Penitentiary to remind you of the petition from our County for his pardon.

Please look into the papers – the petition Doctor Patterson certificate and Mr. Pendleton's also. Since my return home I have been asked by numbers of our best citizens why Cornwell was not pardoned. My answer was I hoped it would be done yet at a proper time. They preferred to sign a petition for his release – but if I understood you right you said it was not necessary to send any papers more. The Citizens of our County are anxious to have Cornwell released believing that the poor old creature has already suffered a full satisfaction to the law. They think it was a harsh judgment when first given and when we reflect that it is the first felony ever committed by him we feel safe in believing he would never commit another. Cornwell is about sixty years old has a wife about his age who seems almost broken hearted. The penalty I think is sixteen years, four only has passed, and twelve more to serve and according to the view of your doctor and all human reason he never can live to serve the time.

I know you are a feeling man and a proper judge of the law – and will do what is right in the premises. I shall therefore content myself to trust the whole matter to your sound judgment hoping you may remember us for good in behalf of the poor old affected prisoner and grant his reprieve.

I am pleased to hear that we have a hope to get rid of that old Cancer the James River & Kanawha Canal I suppose we shall see each other again this winter.

With my best wishes for your health and prosperity I remain as ever your friend

(L. or S.?) Lynn

***Penitentiary of Virginia, October 25<sup>th</sup> 1860***

***Pardon of Bevier***

***Box #2, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4703-4707***

***Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher***

Commonwealth vs. Bevier

Pleas at the Court House of Prince William County before the Circuit Court of said County on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 1857.

Be it remembered that at this same term to wit: at a Circuit Court held for the County of Prince William, at the Court House on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1857. Lucien B. Norvill foreman, John Fair, James G. Draney, Theodore Bodine, Levi C. Lynn, Chapman Copin, Austin B. Weedon, William Wakefield, John C. Weedon, Moses Lynn, Joshua Taylor, William M. Lynn, John Arnold, William Davis, (of Job), Hector Kincheloe and John A. King were sworn a grand jury of inquest for the body of this County and having received their charge, withdrew and after sometime returned into court and presented “An Indictment against William D. Bevier, for burning Hay and Wheat Stacks, a true bill, which Indictment is in these words. Ninth Judicial Circuit, Prince William County to wit: In the Circuit Court of said County. The Jurors of the Commonwealth of Virginia in and for the body of the County of Prince William and now attending the said Court upon their oaths present that, William D. Bevier of the said County on the Twentieth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven in the said County did feloniously and maliciously burn a certain stack of Hay which was then of the value of Twenty Five Dollars, and a certain stack of wheat which was of the value of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars, the property of Garret Hullfish against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia. And the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do further present that William D. Bevier of the County of Prince William on the twentieth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven in the said County did feloniously and maliciously burn a certain other stack of hay the property of Hullfish, which was then of the value of twenty five dollars against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia. And the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do further present that William D. Bevier of the County of Prince William, on the twentieth day

of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven, in the said County, did feloniously and maliciously burn a certain other stack of wheat the property of Garrett Hullfish, which was then of the value of one hundred and twenty five dollars against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Eppa Hunton Attorney  
for the Commonwealth in said Court

Upon information of Reuben Lee, G. W. Smith, Garrett Hullfish, James H. Popkins and T. W. Turner of Prince William County, sworn and sent to give evidence to the Grand Jury by the Court.

M. Fitzhugh, clerk  
October 12<sup>th</sup> 1857

**Penitentiary of Virginia, October 25<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Pardon of John Cornwell**

**Box #1, Folder 8, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4705**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To His Excellency John Letcher Esq. Governor of Virginia

I am requiring by Gov. Letcher, by a message from the keeper of the Penitentiary, to report on the health of James Cornwell a convict therein. He was brought to the prison on 10 May 1856, for the term of 16 years for murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, from the County of Prince William. He was an old inebriate only his tone & vigor had been impaired by bad habits. He is infirm and melancholy & suffers greatly mentally from confinement, appetite, and occasional diarrhea. His physical condition is probably as good now as when brought to the prison, but he is useless for labor. He is well behaved & humble, and seems harmless. He is frequently in the hospital.

I am also required by the same message to report on the convict John Owen a convict from Pittsylvania for the term of 3 years from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1859.

He is an infirm old man, the subject of desperation & incurable hernia & is often an inmate of the hospital. He is useless for labor, dejected, and melancholic. He is also very humble & well behaved.

Very respectfully &c.

W. A. Patterson, Surgeon of the  
Penitentiary of Virginia

**Prince William County, February 1860**

**Pardon of John Cornwell**

**Box #1, Folder 8, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4705**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Commonwealth of Virginia vs James Cornwell

After the jury had rendered their verdict in this case the Council for the Prisoner moved the Court to set aside the verdict, and to grant the prisoner a new trial because the Jury were not justified from the evidence in finding a verdict of murder in the second degree and fixing the period of the prisoners confinement in the Penitentiary at sixteen years and secondly because an instruction given by the court to the jury was erroneous, which motion the court overruled – and on the motion of the prisoner the court certifies that on the trial of the prisoner the following facts were proved. That on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August last the prisoner came to the Town of Brentsville, in the County of Prince William, about eleven o'clock A.M. – that when he arrived there he was sober, but that in the course of the day, he became intoxicated, and it was further proved that when in that condition he had very little self control, and in a great measure like one deprived of his senses – that about sundown of the said day the prisoner, and a man named John Renoe were in the Tavern of a man named Davis, in the Town of Brentsville, when they got into a fight, that the deceased, whose name was Thomas Turner, came into the Tavern about this time and finding the prisoner down, and Renoe on top of him, he aided the Brother of Renoe to separate the combatants, which they succeeded in doing and Renoe then went out of the Tavern onto the porch - a few minutes after this a man by the name of Fair came to the Hotel of Davis and saw the prisoner on the porch of the Hotel rearing as he expressed himself, when he asked him what was the matter, and he the prisoner replied, God dam him he would cut out his guts, Fair then went into the Bar room of the hotel, when the deceased asked him to take a drink, which he did and the prisoner then came up, and said can I take a drink too, to which the deceased replied certainly and the prisoner and deceased both took a drink about this time, the prisoner remarked to deceased if he took John Renoe's part he could whip him, at the same time clinching the deceased, the deceased then told him not to tear his clothes off, to which the prisoner replied he would tear the hide off the deceased. The deceased then told the prisoner if he the deceased struck him once he would not find John Renoe fooling with him – The deceased then discovering a knife

in the hands of the prisoner pushed him off, then the prisoner stabbed the deceased in the left side letting out his bowels and penetrating his bladder, of which wound the deceased died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September following. The prisoner after stabbing the deceased went out of the house saying God dam you if I have not given you enough. I can come back and finish you, and was in a short time thereafter found by the Officer who arrested him under an open porch of the Hotel leaning on a Hogshead. After the testimony was through, the attorney for the Commonwealth, declined to prosecute the prisoner for murder in the first degree, but argued before the jury that he was guilty of Murder in the Second Degree, and the council for the defense argued and insisted before the jury, that such was the condition of the mind of the prisoner, that he was incapable of knowing right from wrong, owing to the effect of the liquor he had drunk and ought to be acquitted. After the argument was over the Court felt to be its duty to instruct the Jury as to the law in reference to drunkenness as an excuse for crime, and accordingly instructed the jury as follows: That in prosecutions for murder in the first degree as it was necessary for the Commonwealth to prove a willful, deliberate and premeditated purpose to kill - evidence that the prisoner was so drunk as to be incapable of forming such purpose, was admissible in proof to shew that the accused had not committed the specific offence of murder in the first degree, but that in prosecutions for murder in the second degree on voluntary manslaughter, proof that the party was drunk, and that the crime was committed, while the intoxication lasted and was its immediate result, was inadmissible as an excuse for the commission of such crimes, and that it mattered not what was the degree of intoxication of the prisoner, if he was maddened by the quantity drunk, yet if he committed the crime during the fit of intoxication, it was no excuse in prosecution for murder in the second degree or voluntary manslaughter. So which ruling and opinion of the court the prisoner excepted, and prayed that this his bill of exceptions may be signed, sealed and enrolled which is accordingly done.

John Tyler

The above is a true copy of the bill of exceptions in the case of the Commonwealth of Virginia against James Cornwell.

Teste,

Milton Fitzhugh, clerk  
Circuit Court of Pr. Wm. Co.

**Penitentiary of Virginia, October 25<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Pardon of Bevier**

**Box #2, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4703-4707**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

**Commonwealth vs Bevier**

The evidence of Garrett Hulfish for the Commonwealth being sworn says – On Sunday (yesterday) two weeks ago I had been walking round my lot, Mr. Mount who had previously shown me an order of the Court by which I had been appointed one of a patrol said he wishes me to go down to Bevier's, that there was a large collection of Negroes, and wishes me to help him to disperse them. I objected having no coat on. We went down to his shop where there was a large collection of Negroes, one of whom was insolvent and we took him in charge, we passed the Prisoner who was sitting in his yard in his shirt sleeves. Our reason for taking the said Negro along was he said he had pass and Mr. Smith had it. Mount left the negro with me to go after hand cuffs. While I was standing there heard loud talking at Mr. Bevier's, and by the time we hand cuffed him someone remarked that Bevier had a pistol in his hand. Mr. Bevier made a great many threats. I did not understand all, he abused the patrol – there was Mount – Hulfish he was no better. He would protect his property in spite of Hell. He was then walking in the street in front of his house. I saw what I thought was a pistol. I took particular notice of what he said – made no reply –he used many oaths and my name was mixed up with them. I was then about 50 yards from Bevier. Mr. Mount then asked me for a horse so he could get a warrant. Bevier was too abusive – among other remarks he said he would have his revenge, that I thought I had him once – but he would have me yet before the Devil got him. His reference was I suppose to some fracas we had some two or three years since – I left while he was talking in that way. This was half hour by sun or an hour - Between seven and eight o'clock that evening I was sitting in my house and heard the cry of Fire. I went to the door and saw it was my Hay Stack on fire. I returned to the room a few minutes – saw the stack was in full blaze – and could not save anything – others were going to the fire – after pacifying my wife who was much alarmed I went out to the burning Hay Stack, this stack was some 25 or 30 yards from the Turnpike road in a little lot, this lot was cultivated in corn and potatoes – the potatoes directly at the stack – A stable stood on the lot just on the side of the road and was a part of the fence line between the road and the stack of hay. The stack of hay was completely enveloped in flames when I reached it and burned down after some considerable time. I left

and went to my house before it had been burnt down to pacify them at the house. After being at the house I suppose ten minutes perhaps, I walked leisurely down the stack again went nearly to the stack was apprehensive my wheel right shop might be fired. I went into it – shut the door and was sitting there in the dark thinking on the fire, and heard a scream as of women or children of the cry of fire – heard a number of persons running – went out and discovered my wheat stack on fire. This fire was directly in a line from my House to the railroad and was about midway between the Turnpike and railroad – about three hundred yards perhaps from my house – about the same distance or a little further from the burnt Haystack. I went to my house and ordered my boys and my son to go down to the fire and save what they could if they could not save the grain to save the rails. I went near the burning wheat stack and fearing my wife who was sick would hear of it and become alarmed went back. I afterwards went down. My friends had pulled down a stack part rye and part wheat and saves it. The stack of wheat burnt entirely up. We tried to save a part, were unsuccessful, the Haystack burned was worth \$25. I think it was Timothy hay. The wheat stack as it stood I considered worth \$125. Saw nothing of the Prisoner after I had left him at the door with his threats until the next day about 10 o'clock. I went to Justice Carters next morning about 8 o'clock. I had sent to Mr. Harrison for a warrant before day fearing the prisoner would escape but was informed I could not get a warrant without going to his house. I then went to Mr. Carters and got a warrant, as I returned saw Bevier noticing me as I came back, as if he was looking for me – judge he saw me I judge from his position he was at work in his shop he was soon after arrested.

Cross examined – Mr. Lee was at the fire when I got there, he was not the first that caused me to suspect the prisoner, afterwards I think I went to Lee and he gave me additional cause to suspect prisoner – Did not see prisoner at the fire – the first information I got was not stated as coming from Lee. Mr. G. W. Smith told me he had seen Bevier as he believed coming from the fire with Mr. Lee's coat on – Then I made some enquires of others asked Mr. Lee where his light coat was – he replied to tell you the truth Mr. Bevier had it – I told him he had better give me all the information he could – He said Bevier asked him for his coat – Lee did not then tell me he saw Bevier set fire to the stack – I did not then ask him – I asked him why they changed coats – I would not be positive whether he said Bevier wanted it, or some other cause. I think he said they changed coats going down the road. I heard Lee say before the Magistrate for the first time that Bevier set fire to my stacks – Lee told me about changing coats at his house after the fire. I did not charge Lee with the offence – did not hear anyone else – I think it was talked about that night that Lee was the offender – when I asked Lee about the coats he manifested no signs of concern that I saw, seemed to think it was a pity or shame or something of that kind to burn my stacks. I believe Mr. Bevier was the guilty one and not Lee, because Lee never had any grudge against me – Bevier had – Near the Negroes around Bevier's Store were several white men, Popkins and old Mr. Lee – I do not recollect seeing young Lee in Town that day – He lives about 800 yards or about beyond the wheat stack burnt – Mr. Bevier is at times very quiet – On this Sunday evening he was very talkative and was I think intoxicated to some extent but cannot say to what extent – He was not so drunk as not to know what he was doing. Bevier seems always angry when we performed our duty as patrol because we interfered with what he called his friends. He has not spoken to me since our difficult some years ago – I have heard him speak of the patrol as interfering with his business, they dealt with him. The store has changed hands – I cannot say when the change took place. Mr. Stryker kept the store on the Sunday referred to. Mr. Stryker I think kept the store last Christmas.

Garrett Hulfish

Reuben Lee for the Commonwealth says

On Sunday evening the 20<sup>th</sup> September after Mr. Stryker locked his store and went off the prisoner proposed to me to take a walk with him to Mrs. Waring's to get the store key. I told him I must go home – he said I must go with him – I went with him, he went to the door and knocked and asked Mrs. Waring & Mr. Stryker and neither one appeared – we then returned to the store – He proposed to go back to Mr. Waring's perhaps Mr. Stryker might be there – I said I wanted to go home – he said I must go with him and asked me to change coats – and I did so, then Bevier went up into his shop and asked Uncle Bud a black man to give him some matches. I asked what he was going to do with matches – He said he was going to burn Haymarket. I said I would not go with him if that was he was going to do – He then said he wouldn't do it – said we would go – went passed Mrs. Waring's and came near or to Mr. Hulfish's stable. He said stop while I go in here to do a job. I told him to come on and I passed down the road slowly. I looked around and saw Mr. Hulfish's stack of Hay on fire. I said to Mr. Bevier who was at the stack, what are you doing – he replied with an oath he was going to burn Hulfish and Mount – and if I made any alarm or stir he would shoot me on the spot and being afraid of the man and not knowing what to do I ran through Mr. Hulfish's corn home. Mr. Bevier called to me to stop or he would ruin me. – I continued going and came near Mr. Hulfish's wheat stacks. Bevier called to me to stop and give him a match. I told him I had none I continued on home and he followed me. I went to my house and by the time I entered my door, Bevier was there and came in with me. I

lighted the candle. Bevier asked me to give him some matches – I told him I could not – then he begged me for two matches to light him up his shop room – I told him I would not nor could not – Mr. Bevier went to the mantelpiece and got three or four matches and went out of my house – I went to the door and told Mr. Bevier not to do any more damage tonight that it would be found out on him. He said he would not – I said then for God’s sake and for my sake do not. He went in the direction of his house or Haymarket – I then went to bed – fell into a dose and my dream awoke me. My house was lighted through. I said my God my house is on fire – jumped out of bed went to the door and found Hulfish’s wheat stack on fire. I put on my pants & shoes and went to assist Mr. Hulfish about his Wheat – did not ask Bevier why he wanted to trade coats – he did not say why – the wheat stack is in the way I went home that night from the hay stack – when I got to the burning wheat stack Mr. T. A. Smith, G. W. Smith, Popkins, Stryker and my Father, Mr. Hulfish’s son, Mr. James McDonald, and Mr. Shirley were there as far as I can recollect and they were all except some servants.

#### Cross Examined

Mr. Bevier and myself first met on Sunday early in the afternoon – We drank some – I felt my liquor a little – did not mention my wife’s name in that company. She was in Fairfax an expected her home on the following Saturday – did not expect to go after her – Mr. Bevier drank with me at Stryker’s Store – Bevier sent for the key and got it, Mrs. Bevier was at meeting I think that day – Bevier eat veal and eggs – it was after dinner but I eat with him – we took something to drink before eating and after – we had the store key about an hour – did not see Hulfish or Mount that evening – Bevier was not very tipsy – about 2 or 3 o’clock I parted with Bevier and saw him again about night – passed the interval at my fathers who lives in town. My father and Bevier both told me about the patrol being at Beviars – Heard before that Bevier was mad with Hulfish – my father told me this at the fire. I had no particular conversation that night about the fire. Hulfish asked me about it at my house about 11 o’clock having gone home after my coat. Told Hulfish that night I knew who did it – He did not press me to tell him who did it – Had a small fight with Popkins – he wanted to know what time I went to sleep – had time to take a right smart nap before the fire at the wheat stack. Popkins insinuations about the fire caused the fight – don’t remember the particulars of fight – when I got to the burning stack I said it was a great shame – told the congregation that night that Bevier set fire to the Hay Stack and came to my house for matches and I refused. Hulfish heard him. This was after Hulfish came to my house the second time about one o’clock – Told Mr. Hulfish I knew who did it – it was about dark when we first went to Mrs. Waring’s – I suppose he wanted to get liquor – I am positive we went together till we came to Hulfish’s stable – I did not stop but went slowly on till I saw the fire – did not make the alarm because I was afraid he would do me harm. I did not stop at Mr. smith’s Kitchen on my way down the street with Bevier, did not ask for matches – had no matches in my pocket – said nothing to Bevier about taking revenge on Hulfish – I did not try to put the fire out at the Hay stack because Bevier made such threats I was afraid to do anything – I was about 25 yards from five of Hay Stack when I first saw it.

Reuben M. Lee

James W. Mount being sworn for Commonwealth says:

Know nothing of the fire – was not in the place when it occurred. On Sunday evening the 20<sup>th</sup> ultimo saw a large gathering of Negroes round the shop partly occupied by the prisoner – the prisoner keeping a Tailor Shop above stairs and Stryker a Whiskey Shop below – I went after Mr. Hulfish to go with me to make them leave – We went up there and one was imprudent and we took him and brought him down to Smith’s Store, intending to carry him before Grayson the nearest magistrate but being informed he was not at home we released him, we went back the second time – As we were going back saw the prisoner go into the store, and he brought out a pistol and threatened if we came up there he would shoot us – we being unarmed we halted and went no further – prisoner ran on a good deal – walked up and down the street – just outside his yard and said he would protect his property and the Negroes. I then got a horse & went up to Mr. Harrisons to see if I could not have him arrested. When I returned the Hay and Wheat stacks of Mr. Hulfish were on fire – did not hear any threats of revenge.

#### Cross Examined

When I returned I went to the fire – Prisoner on Sunday evening was drunk or sober – did not hear Lee say anything about the fire – when I got to the wheat stack Lee was there – someone asked Lee at the fire if he knew anything about the fire and I think. I am confident he answered, he did not – saw no fight with Lee – staid at the fire two or three hours or maybe four off and on. When this question was asked Lee, Mr. Shirley, G. W. Smith, McCormick & myself were there – did not see Lee about Bevier’s that evening – I went for a peace warrant – I did not see Lee do anything at the fire – Heard no talk that night that Lee had anything to do with the fire.

J. W. Mount

G. W. Smith for the Commonwealth says:

When I was standing on my porch on the 20<sup>th</sup> September about dusk, saw the prisoner and Lee walk down the street, and in very little while they returned – Then I saw Bevier going down by himself – after a little while I saw a light shining on the Church, I thought then it was my Brothers house on the Railroad burning – started to go there when I got against Miss Sarah Saunders I found the light was down the street. I went down the street and found Mr. Hulfish's hay stack on fire, while standing there no great while I saw Mr. Hulfish's wheat stack on fire. I went over to the burning stack of wheat when I got there no one was at the fire except those that went with me from the other fire. Mr. Popkins got there with me or may be a little before in a few minutes. I went over to my Brothers stack yard about 600 yards from Hulfish's stack of wheat – saw no one about my brothers stack yard & concluded to go back to the fire – when I got against Mr. Mount's stable I stopped – I heard someone get over the fence making a noise and saw Mr. Bevier go along with Mr. Lee's coat on – I watched him until he went into his back door, our stack yard is on the North side of the Turnpike, and as I got near Mr. Mounts stable saw the prisoner – a street comes up from the Church and strikes the Turnpike near Mr. Mounts stable – The prisoner after getting over the fence, went through our field until he struck his own lot, went through his own lot and into his back door. I could see the fire at wheat stack when I was standing when I first saw prisoner, did not speak to prisoner – I went back to the fire and I recollect Popkins, McCormick, Hulfish, Lee and others were at the fire.

Cross Examined

Saw Mr. Bevier when he passed our porch second time going down the street and saw he was alone. I doubt it was quite half hour from the time I saw the first light till I saw the second – I don't know what the time was – don't know whether it was over fifteen minutes – I found Lee at the fire when I returned from Mount's stable. I do not recollect any particular conversation with Lee that night at the fire. We were all talking a good deal with one another. Popkins and I went to his house toward the latter part of the burning and after my return from Mounts stable – Stack was burning more than two hours – I went down to see if Mr. Bevier's coat was there – when I first saw Lee at the fire he had got Bevier's coat on – I found his Coat at Lees. The coat he Lee had on was a black casting coat. I think when I first saw Lee he was in his shirt sleeves, he went home and came back with a coat on. I asked Lee at his house if he knew anything about the fire, he said he did and if called before the court he would tell – did not hear Lee say that night that Bevier set fire to the stacks. Lee said Bevier asked him to swap coats, told Shirley I had seen Bevier at Mount stable – don't think the moon shone that night – think the night was not cloudy much but don't recollect. When I saw Bevier get over the fence was within a few feet of him. Told Shirley as I went to the fire I saw Lee with Bevier coat on, it was a light colored coat kind of frock – kind of cotton goods. Hulfish came and asked about Bevier having Lees coat, don't think Hulfish went to Lees House more than once.

Thomas S. Shirley for Commonwealth says:

On 20<sup>th</sup> September saw Bevier in street with his coat off and pistol in his hand and heard him say he would have revenge out of Hulfish before the Devil got him. Hulfish and Mount were then at Smith's Store, probably about 7 ½ o'clock that night was told that there was fire up town, went out and saw Hulfish's hay stack on fire – went down immediately some fifteen or twenty were there when I got there, had not been at the haystack more than fifteen or twenty minutes before I saw the wheat stack on fire – I went down the street & to my own hay stacks and in about ½ hour went to the burning wheat stack – went to it several times during the time it was burning.

Cross Examined:

Met with G. W. Smith that night at one time in the street while the wheat stack was burning. I think I was standing at Mounts corner – Saw Mr. Lee at the fire – saw a fight between Lee and Popkins, a small matter and soon over, did not hear Lee say that night who set fire to the stacks, when I first saw Lee think he had no coat on. No person in my presence to my recollection charged Lee with setting fire to the stacks cannot say whether Bevier was tipsy that evening or not he walked straight – this was about ½ hour by sun I was in my house or about it that evening did not see Lee that evening till I got to the fire – Mr. Smith told me on the street that he had been in Bevier's lot and had seen him go into his house by the back way with a light speckled coat on which looked like the one Lee had worn, don't recollect that I told this to anyone at the fire, there was much excitement there during the night it was spoken of. I think Smith told it at the fire. I live about 250 yards down the Pike from Bevier. & about 400 yards from the haystacks – The night was a clear star – light one I think. Sun shone in the evening – don't recollect a cloud.

Thomas S. Shirley

James H. Popkins for the Commonwealth says:

Sunday evening on 20<sup>th</sup> September Mr. Smith, Stryker and myself were standing on Smith's porch and saw two persons passing. Mr. Stryker remembered they were going to Gainesville to get liquor as he had his shop locked and his key in his pocket these two were Bevier and Lee – While we were talking in 10 or 15 minutes I suppose they returned – passed on back and as we supposed turned the corner round Smith's Store in about 5 minutes one of them Bevier returned, it was said, Lee also returned but I did not see him it was tolerably dark, some five minutes after that we saw light shining on the Church. Stryker had left – Smith and myself started toward the Church and when he got to the corner discovered the fire and said he thought it was Hulfish's Haystack – We went to the fire and opposite Hulfish's. I gave the alarm and found the Haystack so far burnt that we could not save it, after being there 5 minutes or longer. We discovered a fire in direction of Church, several of us made to it directly. I was the second white person that reached it. G. W. Smith I think got there before me and some servants, and thought and still think it was fixed on two sides – we went to work to save the Rye Stack – while removing this stack and when we had got within three feet of the ground Lee came up in his shirt sleeves and made strangely of the fire and I said to him you damned scoundrel, you had a hand in this if you did not do it – He struck at me and I struck him and we had a scuffle. Lee helped to move the rest of the Rye Stack after he got there. There was a difference arose in the evening about Hulfish and Mount arresting a Negro opposite Strykers Store. I walked up towards Bevier seemed a little angry, thought he was in liquor, his wife requested him to drive the Negroes away that she had been to Church and heard two good sermons and was utterly astonished to find so many Negroes around the Shop door. Bevier then went in Stryker's Store as it was called. I heard Stryker say Oh William don't take that out, alluding to a pistol and said something about liquor – supposed he accused Bevier of being in liquor. Bevier came out with pistol first came towards me and then towards his house – Mount then called me to his corner – when I got near there heard Bevier call Hulfish's name and say he would have revenge out of him before the Devil got him. After we had moved the stack of rye and the fence I felt dissatisfied and like we ought to do something and proposed we should go down and search Lee's bed to see if it had been tumbled. When we went down the door was locked – we went round to back window and got in and found the bed had been tumbled. We went back to the fire and someone asked Lee why he did not wear his coat and he said when he woke up the light was shinning in his room and he first supposed his house was on fire, and he found the fire at the wheat stack and went to it without taking time to put his coat on. We were still dissatisfied about the coat and Hulfish and myself went back to Lee's house and made him produce the coat he said he had Bevier's coat. I thought not and requested to see, and he produced Bevier's coat – I then asked him who did that firing. He said he would tell when called on by the Court.

Cross Examined:

The coat of Bevier was folded up in a chair, am not able to say whether there were two sheets – but the bed felt like it had been laid in. We had no light – it felt like a feather bed – had a light when he produced coat at the door. I asked why he had Bevier's coat he said Bevier asked him to change coats at the shop when Bevier passed down the street second time don't know whether he had on Black Coat or not I have been unable to determine – it did not strike me then he had on Lee's coat. Lee in going down the street if he desired to go into Smith's Kitchen could have gone into it and out of it without passing by the front of Smith's house in going down street there was a back way to go in and come out. From the time I saw light at haystack till the fire broke out at wheat stack was probably ten minutes. Maybe not more than five minutes not ½ hour. Wheat stack some 3 or 400 yards from Bevier's. Bevier that Sunday evening I thought was in liquor – don't remember positively that Lee said Bevier set fire to the stacks – think I heard something of it from someone there.

Jas H. (his mark) Popkins

Thomas W. Turner for Commonwealth says:

I was deputed constable to arrest Bevier. Monday night while I was guarding the prisoner Mr. Foley told Bevier he thought it would go hard with him. Bevier then asked Foley if there was any chance to make a compromise with Hulfish. Foley replied he thought the case had gone too far, it was a Commonwealth case. On Tuesday morning before breakfast Bevier asked me to carry him around to see his family before I brought him to jail. I carried him around. He asked leave to go into his wife's room, I agreed. He had not been in long before I heard someone touch the ground as if he had jumped out. I ran round and found Bevier going through the lot on north west side of his house. I ran him about 300 yards and caught him or he stopped. I told him when I got in 15 steps of him if he did not stop I would shoot him, and he stopped – he had about 40 yards start in the beginning of pursuit.

Cross Examined:

When Bevier was arrested he was on his bench in his shop at work. I did not tell him what the warrant was for. He was informed of the nature of the warrant by the magistrate reading the warrant. The trial commenced between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon, after justice ordered Bevier to Jail I had no guard until that night, That night had a guard of several men. He was in the room with his wife not more than a minute or two – I arrested Bevier about 9 or 10 o'clock Monday morning – Charles Thomas gave me the warrant.

Thomas W. Turner

The forgoing is a correct copy of the evidence taken in the case of Commonwealth vs Bevier from the records in Prince William Circuit Court.

Milton Fitzhugh, clerk

**Penitentiary of Virginia, October 25<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Pardon of Bevier**

**Box #2, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4703-4707**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Commonwealth vs Bevier

And on which day, the said William D. Bevier late of the County of Prince William, who stands indicted of felony, was led to the Bar in custody of the Sheriff of this County, thereof arraigned and pleaded not guilty to the indictment, and for his trial, put himself upon the Country, Whereupon came a jury to wit: Gideon Warne, A. N. Doane, E. E. Claggett, Walter Keys, Robert G. Maddox, John D. Davis, John H. Austin, Matthew Davis, Edwin W. Latimer, John Read, William Goodwin and Francis Robertson, who being elected, tried and sworn, the truth and upon the premises to speak and having partly heard the evidence, were with the consent of the prisoner, committed to the custody of the Sheriff of this County, who is directed to keep them together without communication with any other person, and to cause them to appear here tomorrow morning 9 o'clock, whereupon an oath was administered to Thomas K. Davis, sheriff of this County to the following effect "you shall well and truly, to the best of your ability keep this Jury, and neither speak to them yourself, nor suffer any other person to speak to them touching any matter relative to this trial until they return into Court to-morrow, and the said William D. Bevier is remanded to Jail.

And now at this day to wit: At a Circuit Court held for the said County of Prince William, at the Court House on the same day and year first herein mentioned to wit: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 1857 William D. Bevier late of Prince William County, who stands indicted of Felony, was again led to the Bar in Custody of the Jailor of this Court, and the Jury sworn for his trial, to wit: Gideon Warne, A. N. Doane, C. C. Claggett, Walter Keys, Robert G. Maddox, John D. Davis, John H. Austin, Matthew Davis, Edwin W. Latimer, John Read, William Goodwin and Francis Robertson, were brought into court by the Sheriff of this County and having fully heard the evidence upon their oath do say, that the said William D. Bevier is guilty in manner and form as in the Indictment against him is alleged, and they do ascertain the term of his imprisonment in the Public Jail and Penitentiary house to be three years: and thereupon the said William D. Bevier moved the Court to set the said verdict aside and grant him a new trial upon the indictment aforesaid which motion the Court doth overrule and thereupon it being demanded of the said William D. Bevier if anything for himself he had or knew to say why the Court should not now proceed to pronounce judgment against him according to law, and nothing being offered or alleged in delay of judgment it is considered by the Court that the said William D. Bevier be imprisoned in the Public Jail and Penitentiary House of this Commonwealth for the term of three years, the period by the Jurors in their verdict ascertained. And it is ordered that the Sheriff of this County do as soon as possible after the adjournment of this court, remove and safely convey the said William D. Bevier from the Jail of this court to the said Public Jail and Penitentiary house therein to be kept imprisoned, and treated in the manner directed by law. And thereupon the said William D. Bevier is remanded to jail.

A Copy,

Teste M. Fitzhugh, clerk

**Penitentiary of Virginia, October 25<sup>th</sup> 1860**  
**Pardon of Cornwell**  
**Box #2, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, Misc. Reel 4703-4707**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
 To His Excellency John Letcher, Governor of Virginia

Dear Sir,

I am advised today, by Mr. (Simms?) the member of the legislature from the County of Prince William, that you require from me a statement of the physical condition of Cornwell a prisoner in the Penitentiary from the said county sentenced for 18 years for murder in the second degree. He is an old man of infirm health and hypochondrical humble and well behaved. He is not much more feeble than when incarcerated but despondent, always thinks himself sick and often wishes to be prescribed for, and to take physic. He is not then indulged, from its impropriety and is thankful for any little seeming prescription, and particularly for changes of diet. He is not fit to be engaged in any of the workshops and is kept employed as one of the scavengers about the rooms and yard. His age and broken constitution render it certain that he cannot survive the period of his sentence of incarceration.

Very Respectfully Yours  
 W. A. Patterson, Surgeon  
 of the Penitentiary of Virginia

“On his reexamination today I omitted to get his Christian name but there is no other Cornwell in this prison.”

W. A. P.

**Richmond Va., June 25<sup>th</sup> 1860**  
**Box #3, Folder 5, Accession # 36710,**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Letcher**

A list of free negroes and slave convicts delivered to Robert F. Bibb and David by Bibb-contractors on the Covington & Ohio Railroad from the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 1859 to the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860, including those transferred by N. B. French to said Bibbs.

Name	Delivered	Received	Crime	Sentenced	Sentence	\$
Hengfield Butcher	10 Oct 1859	18 Feb 1854	House Breaking	Petersburg	Life	97.22
William H. James	10 Oct 1859	25 Apr 1859	Burglary	Richmond	3 years	122.22
Harrison Jarrett	10 Oct 1859	11 Jul 1859	Murder	Augusta	18 years	122.22
William F. Jones	10 Oct 1859	01 Sep 1859	Attempt Rape	Preston	18 years	122.22
James Jones	10 Oct 1859	19 Sep 1859	House Breaking	Richmond	1 year	94.20
Rachael Watson	10 Oct 1859	17 Feb 1859	Larceny	Alexandria	5 years	55.31
Fanny Peters	10 Oct 1859	01 Jun 1859	House Burning	Rockingham	7 years	55.31
Delaware	10 Oct 1859	14 Jul 1859	Burglary	Cumberland	Transpt.	03.56
Randall	10 Oct 1859	24 Jul 1859	Burglary	Petersburg	Transpt.	122.22
Edmond	10 Oct 1859	09 Aug 1859	attempt to poison	Charles City	Transpt.	122.22
Ned	10 Oct 1859	23 Aug 1859	Rape	Fredericksburg	Transpt.	122.22
Pompey	10 Oct 1859	07 Sep 1859	Murder	Dinwiddie	Transpt.	122.22
Andrew	10 Oct 1859	19 Sep 1859	assault on white man	Prince Edward	Transpt.	122.22
Davy	10 Oct 1859	27 Mar 1859	Burning Factory	Lynchburg	Transpt.	122.22
Judy	10 Oct 1859	05 Oct 1859	Not Given	Petersburg	Transpt.	18.33
Alberta	10 Oct 1859	05 Oct 1859	Not Given	Madison	Transpt.	30.56
Thornton Bundy	07 Dec 1859	20 Oct 1859	Larceny	Fredericksburg	5 years	103.88
Elijah Powell	07 Dec 1859	21 Oct 1859	Stabbing	Southampton	5 years	103.88
Mat Maho	07 Dec 1859	10 Nov 1859	Cutting &c	Rockingham	1 year	92.69
Isaac Davis	07 Dec 1859	03 Dec 1859	Manslaughter	New Kent	1 year	44.51
Martha Dixon	07 Dec 1859	13 Jun 1855	Murder	Charles City	18 years	26.56
Wash	07 Dec 1859	07 Nov 1859	Arson	Patrick	Transpt.	103.88
Robert	07 Dec 1859	21 Nov 1859	assault on white man	Richmond	Transpt.	103.88
Rose	07 Dec 1859	02 Sep 1859	Murder	Campbell	Transpt.	26.56
Willis Lockley	01 Jan 1860	14 Oct 1857	House Breaking	King & Queen	5 years	25.00
John Miles	01 Jan 1860	09 Nov 1852	House Breaking	Fauquier	8 years	87.01
Ned Mickens	01 Jan 1860	21 Sep 1857	Stabbing	Petersburg	3 years	72.22

John Poolman	01 Jan 1860	09 Feb 1858	Burglary	Accomack	4 years	100.00
John Roane	01 Jan 1860	06 Aug 1856	Burning Stacks	Accomack	5 years	100.00
Munroe Butler	01 Jan 1860	20 May 1856	Robbery	Prince George	5 years	100.00
Nathan	01 Jan 1860	04 Jan 1858	House Burning	Buckingham	Transpt.	100.00
Levi	01 Jan 1860	20 Feb 1858	Manslaughter	Middlesex	Transpt.	63.05
Jacob	01 Jan 1860	09 Mar 1858	House Burning	King William	Transpt.	100.00
Sam	01 Jan 1860	31 Mar 1858	Murder	Henrico	Transpt.	100.00
Carrol Minnis	10 Feb 1860	13 Dec 1859	Larceny	Charlotte	3 years	88.76
Franklin Wills	10 Feb 1860	15 Dec 1859	Burglary	Berkley	1 year	88.76
Mathew Rand	10 Feb 1860	22 Dec 1859	Murder	Williamsburg	18 years	88.76
Scott	10 Feb 1860	10 Dec 1859	Not Given	Charlotte	Transpt.	88.76
Miles	10 Feb 1860	19 Dec 1859	Stabbing	Henry	Transpt.	88.76
Charles	10 Feb 1860	28 Dec 1859	attempt to poison	Hanover	Transpt.	88.76
Reuben	10 Feb 1860	13 Dec 1859	Stabbing	Albemarle	Transpt.	88.76
Ned Lee	10 Feb 1860	24 Jul 1859	Larceny	Richmond	Life	88.76
Spennr. Pennington	10 Feb 1860	24 Dec 1858	Robbery	Petersburg	10 years	88.76
Ransome Hasket	10 Feb 1860	31 Jan 1859	House Breaking	Surry	3 years	88.76
Marshal Ross	10 Feb 1860	06 Feb 1859	Larceny	Hampshire	4 years	88.76
Jim Tyler	10 Feb 1860	24 Feb 1859	Burglary	Warren	6 years	88.76
John Coapland	10 Feb 1860	25 Feb 1859	Larceny	Petersburg	2 years	88.76
Fleming Burnette	10 Feb 1860	25 Feb 1859	Forgery	Petersburg	3 years	88.76
John Parris	10 Feb 1860	20 Aug 1858	House Entry	Alexandria	3 years	88.76
Andrew Strawder	10 Feb 1860	01 Sep 1858	Mal. Stabbing	Rockingham	3 years	88.76
Emanuel Taylor	10 Feb 1860	16 Sep 1858	Larceny	Campbell	2 years	88.76
Irby Hasket	10 Feb 1860	29 Sep 1858	Stabbing	Surry	5 years	88.76
Wm. Reynolds	10 Feb 1860	31 Jan 1857	aiding slave to escape	Pittsylvania	5 years	88.76
William Boon	10 Feb 1860	13 Nov 1855	Murder	Southampton	18 years	88.76
Madison Goings	10 Feb 1860	01 Feb 1860	Cutting &c.	Augusta	2 years	88.76
Isreal	10 Feb 1860	27 Jan 1859	Assault &c.	Richmond	Transpt.	88.76
Jim	10 Feb 1860	04 Nov 1858	attempt to escape	Prince Edward	Transpt.	88.76
Jim Fox	10 Feb 1860	26 Nov 1858	Murder	Fluvanna	Transpt.	88.76
Tom	10 Feb 1860	04 Dec 1858	Murder	Loudoun	Transpt.	88.76
Harry	10 Feb 1860	07 Dec 1858	Murder	Halifax	Transpt.	88.76
Henry Myers	10 Feb 1860	26 Oct 1858	Beating &c.	Culpepper	Transpt.	88.76
Lamb	10 Feb 1860	20 Jan 1860	Arson	Norfolk	Transpt.	88.76
Noah	10 Feb 1860	24 Jan 1860	Assault &c.	Page	Transpt.	5.20
Lucy	10 Feb 1860	16 Apr 1859	Poisoning	Prince William	Transpt.	22.19
Sarah Ann	10 Feb 1860	15 Mar 1859	Arson	Spotsylvania	Transpt.	22.19
Fanny	10 Feb 1860	13 Oct 1858	Poisoning	Botetourt	Transpt.	22.19
Tom Graves	25 Jun 1860	18 Feb 1860	Cutting &c.	Petersburg	2 years	51.76
Austin Rich	25 Jun 1860	01 Mar 1860	Shooting	Richmond	2 years	51.76
Emanuel Rich	25 Jun 1860	27 Mar 1860	Arson	King George	7 years	51.76
James Winston	25 Jun 1860	19 Mar 1860	Rape Attempt	Bedford	10 years	51.76
Thomas Cooper	25 Jun 1860	31 May 1860	Larceny	Augusta	5 years	51.76
Henry Vaughn	25 Jun 1860	06 Jun 1860	Larceny	Nelson	1½ years	51.76
George Poulson	25 Jun 1860	16 Jun 1860	House Breaking	Accomack	3 years	51.76
Billy	25 Jun 1860	16 May 1860	House Breaking	Clarke	Transpt.	51.76
Jim	25 Jun 1860	17 May 1860	Rape Attempt	Isle of Wight	Transpt.	51.76
Hannabal	25 Jun 1860	22 May 1860	Arson	Williamsburg	Transpt.	51.76
Fanny	25 Jun 1860	20 Feb 1860	Poison Attempt	Richmond	Transpt.	25.88

(Note – Because of the lack of room for a remarks column above I will list the remarks here: Hedgefield Butcher “Run off & after captured 3 months confined; Harrison Parrett “captured Feb. 16, 1860, sick from time to time of his recapture, till returned to penitentiary where he died; James Jones ‘discharged Sept. 19, 1860; Slave Delaware “killed Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 1859 by the slip of a bank”; Mat Maho “discharged 10 Nov 1860; Isaac Davis “died 26 Oct 1860”; Willis Lockley “died 1<sup>st</sup> April 1860”; John Miles “discharged 9 Nov 1860”;Ned Mickens “discharged 21 Sep 1860”;

slave Levi 'died 17 Aug 1860'; Franklin Willis "discharged 15 Dec 1860"; Spencer Pennington " leg fractured 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1860 since which time he has been unable to work"; Emanuel Taylor " discharged 16 sep 1860"; Save Noah " died 29 Feb 1860)

**Richmond Va., July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1860**

**Box #3, Folder 8, Accession # 36787**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

We John Letcher, Governor of the State of Virginia and Thomas Rosser and John W. Larrius contractors on the Covington and Ohio Rail Road, agree that the said following Free Negroes and Slaves, who have heretofore been sentenced to the Penitentiary or ordered to be employed on the Public Works to wit:

Robert Evans sentenced by the Hustings Court of Petersburg for 15 years from the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 1854 for house breaking and larceny, aged 36 years.

Henry Jackson sentenced by the County Court of Loudoun County for 2 years from the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1859 for store breaking, aged 23 years.

Burwell Clayton sentenced by the Court of Cumberland County for 2 years from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1859 for house breaking, aged 55 years.

Charles Allen sentenced by the Court of Accomack County for one year and six months, from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 1859 for grand larceny, aged 28 years.

Jim sentenced by the County Court of Prince William County to sale and transportation, from the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 1859, aged 46 years.

Jim sentenced by the County Court of Culpepper County to be hung, which sentence has been commuted by the governor to labor on the public works, from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 1859, aged 37 years.

David sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Richmond, to sale and transportation, from the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 1859 for attempting to kill his overseer, aged 22 years.

Spencer Gilbert sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Petersburg to sale and transportation from the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1859 for murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, aged 60 years.

Jim sentenced by the County Court of Rockingham County, to sale and transportation, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1859 for burning a barn, aged 55 years.

Mathew sentenced by the Hustings Court of Richmond City to sale and transportation from the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 1859, for burglary, aged 23 years.

Jack sentenced by the County Court of Caroline County, to sale and transportation from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 1859 for arson, aged 22 years.

Ben sentenced by the County Court of Caroline County to sale and transportation from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 1859 for arson, aged 34 years.

John Red sentenced by the County Court of Amherst County to sale and transportation from the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1859, for murder, aged 28 years.

Mary sentenced by the County Court of Frederick County to sale and transportation from the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1857, for poisoning, aged 16 years.

Mary Jane Mills sentenced by the County court of Loudoun County to sale and transportation from the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1858 for burning a barn, aged 15 years.

Ellen sentenced by the County court of Rappahannock County, to sale and transportation from the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 1858, for infanticide, aged 20 years.

James Armstead sentenced by the Hustings Court of Richmond City, for one year from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 1860, for store breaking, aged 17 years.

James Ellis alias James Rix sentenced by the Hustings Court of Richmond City for 5 years from the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 1858 for grand larceny, aged 31 years.

John Gaines sentenced by the Circuit Court of Mecklinburg County for one year, from the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860, aged 25 years.

Taylor Brown sentenced by the Hustings Court of Richmond City to sale and transportation from the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1860, for malicious wounding, aged 21 years.

Spott sentenced by the Hustings Court of Lynchburg to sale and transportation from the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860, for grand larceny, aged 20 years.

Phillip sentenced by the County Court of Madison County to sale and transportation from the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 1860, for murder, aged 55 years.

Narcissa sentenced by the County Court of Pittsylvania County to sale and transportation from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 1860 for poisoning, aged 22 years.

The said Thomas Rosser and John w. Larrius now having the sixteen named of the said convicts in their custody and employment, are to take the remaining seven into their charge immediately, and to employ them all on the said work in conformity to an act of the General Assembly passed April 7<sup>th</sup> 1858, entitled "An act providing for the employment of negro convicts on the public works." And according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the governor (hereto annexed) a copy of which is furnished the said Rosser and three dollars and thirteen cents to wit: Robert Evans, Henry Jackson, Burwell Clayton, Charles Allen, Jim of Prince William County, Jim of Culpeper, David, Spencer Gilbert, Jim of Rockingham, Mathew, Jack, Ben, John, Red, James Armstead, James Ellis, John Gaines, Taylor Brown, Spott and Phillip each at the rate of one hundred dollars hire for one year; and the said Mary, Jane Mills and Ellen at the rate of forty five dollars hire for one year; and the said Narcissa at the rate of fifty dollars for one year.

The said sum of one hundred and three dollars and thirteen cents, being the hire for all the said convicts to be paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1861. And in case the term of confinement of any convict shall expire before the termination of the hiring or the return of the prisoner to the penitentiary, the said contractors shall previously notify the governor, so that the proper order may be made in time for the discharge of the convict, but the said contractors shall in no case discharge a prisoner upon his own order: and in case where the term of hiring expires before the time of imprisonment the said contractors shall return the said convicts to the penitentiary or transfer them on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1860, as may be required by the governor, at the cost of the said contractors, according to law and the regulations aforesaid: and they shall also return to the penitentiary all the manacles, chains &c. which they may take with the prisoners, when they are discharged.

In testimony thereof we have hereto set our hands and seals the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July 1860

Thomas Rosser (SEAL)

John W. Larrius (by Thos. Rosser) (SEAL)

John Letcher (SEAL)

**Brentsville Va., July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1860**

**Box #4, Folder 1, Accession # 36787**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Sir:

I hereby tender my resignation of the office of the Justice of the Peace for the County of Prince William for the term expiring on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August next, to take effect from and after the Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> inst.

Wm. W. Thornton

**Brentsville Va., July 20<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Box #4, Folder 3, Accession # 36787**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Hon. John Letcher

Dear Sir:

I have been informed that G. W. Wise Esq. will not be reappointed to the office he now holds of Inspector of Vessels in Alexandria. If this is so I desire to recommend for the place Mr. James Fossett of the same city.

Mr. Fossett's appointment will give almost universal satisfaction in Alexandria. He is diligent in the discharge of his duties and given satisfaction always when entrusted with public duties. He is poor with a large family of children, most of them girls and actually needs the place. His democracy is as old as he is and he has been always among the most active and zealous members of the party in his city. His honesty and felicity have never been in question.

I cannot recommend him too highly or too strongly to your consideration and earnestly hope you will give him the place. You could not put in better hands or bestow it where it is more needed.

Yours very truly

Eppa Hunton

This recommendation is made especially on the grounds that Wise will not be re-appointed. I do not wish to see him removed but if he is then I hope to Fossett will be appointed.

**Richmond, Va., October 25<sup>th</sup> 1860**  
**Box #6, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

We John Letcher, Governor of the State of Virginia and Robert F. Bibb and D. G. Bibb contractors on the Covington and Ohio Railroad agree that the said contractors shall employ on the said public work the following Free Negroes and Slaves. Who have heretofore been sentenced to the Penitentiary and considered to be employed on the public works to wit: Willis Lackley sentenced by the court of King and Queen County for five years from the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1857 for house breaking, aged 18 years; John Miles sentenced by the Court of Fauquier County for eight years from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 1852 for house breaking, aged 20 ½ years; Ned Mickens sentenced by the Court of Petersburg for three years from the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 1857 for malicious stabbing, aged 36 years; John Poolman sentenced by the Court of Accomack County for four years from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 1858 for burglary, aged 23 years; John Roane sentenced by the Court of Accomack County for five years from the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August 1856 for burning stacks, aged 18 years; Munroe Butcher sentenced by the Court of Prince George County for five years from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 1856 for robbery, aged 23 years; Nathan sentenced by the Court of Buckingham County to transportation from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 1858 for house burning, aged 40 years; Levi sentenced by the Court of Middlesex County to transportation from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 1858 for manslaughter, aged 22 years; Jacob sentenced by the Court of King William County to transportation from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 1858 for house breaking, aged 22 years; Sam sentenced by the Court of Henrico County to transportation from the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 1858 for murder, aged 39 years; Carrol Minnis sentenced by the Court of Charlotte County for three years from the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 1860 for assaulting a white man with intent to kill, aged 36 years; Lucy sentenced by the Court of Prince William County to transportation from the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1859 for poisoning, aged 45 years; Sarah Ann sentenced by the Court of Spotsylvania County to transportation from the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1859 for arson, aged 17 years; Fanny sentenced by the Court of Botetourt County to transportation from the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 1858 for poisoning her master, aged 35 years.

The said Robert F. Bibb and D. G. Bibb now having the ten first named of the said convicts in their custody and employment, are to take the remaining thirty two into their charge immediately, and to employ them all on the said work in conformity to “An act of the General Assembly passed April 7<sup>th</sup> 1858 entitled “An Act providing for the employment of Negro Convicts on the public works,” and according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Governor (hereto annexed) a copy of which is furnished the said Bibbs, for and in consideration of the sum of Three Thousand Six Hundred and forty dollars & eighty two cents to wit: Willis Lackley, John Miles, Ned Mickens, John Poolman, John Roane, Munroe Butcher, Nathan, Levi, Jacob, Sam, Carrol minis, Franklin Wells, Mathew Rand, Scott, Miles, Charles, Reuben, Ned Lee, Spencer Pennington, Ransome Hasket, Michael Ross, Jim Tyler, John Copeland, Flemming Burnett, John Paris, Andrew Strawder, Emanuel Taylor, Irby Hasket, William Reynolds, William Boon, Madison Goings, Isreal, Jim, Jim Fox, Tom, Harry, Henry Myers, Lamb, Noah, each at the rate of one hundred dollars hire for one year: and the said Lucy, Sarah Ann, and Fanny, at the rate of seventy five dollars hire for one year. The child of the said Sarah Ann being ten months old to go with her and to be well taken care of and provided for by the said Bibb.

Franklin Wells sentenced by the Court of Berkeley County for one year from the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1859 for burglary and larceny, aged 24 years; Martin Rand sentenced by the Court of Williamsburg for eighteen years from the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 1859 for murder, aged 30 years; Scott sentenced by the Court for the city of Richmond to transportation from the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 1859, aged 45 years; Miles sentenced by the Court of Henry County to transportation from the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 1859 for malicious stabbing, aged 37 years; Charles sentenced by the Court of Hanover County to transportation from the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 1859 for attempting to poison, aged 20 years; Reuben sentenced by the Court of Albemarle County to transportation from the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 1859 for stabbing a white man aged 47 years; Ned Lee sentenced by the Circuit Court for the City of Richmond for life from the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1857 for larceny, aged 28 years; Spencer Pennington sentenced by the Court of Petersburg for ten years from the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 1858 for robbery, aged 25 years; Ransome Hasket sentenced by the court of Surry County for three years from the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 1859 for house breaking and larceny aged 32 years; Michael Ross sentenced by the court of Hampshire County for four years from the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 1859 for larceny, aged 25 years; Jim Tyler sentenced by the court of Warren County for six years from the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 1859 for burglary, aged 23 years; John Copeland sentenced by the Court of Petersburg for two years from the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 1859 for larceny, aged 28 years; Fleming Burnett sentenced by the Court of Petersburg for three years from the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 1859 for forgery, aged 22 years; John Davis sentenced by the court of Alexandria City for three years from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1858 for entering a house with intent to steal, aged 40 years; Andrew Strawder sentenced by the Court of Rockingham County for three years, from the 1<sup>st</sup>

day of September 1858 for malicious stabbing, aged 32 years; Emanuel Taylor sentenced by the County Court of Campbell County for two years from the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 1858 for larceny, aged 23 years; Irby Hasket sentenced by the court of Surry County for five years from the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 1858 for unlawful stabbing, aged 39 years; William Reynolds sentenced by the County Court of Pittsylvania County for five years from the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 1857 for aiding slaves to escape, aged 24 years; William Boon sentenced by the court of Southampton County for fifteen years from the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 1855, for murder aged 24 years; Madison Goings sentenced by the Court of Augusta County for years from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 1860, for unlawful cutting, aged 54 years; Isreal sentenced by the Hustings Court of Richmond City to transportation from the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 1859 for wounding a white man with intent to kill, aged 36 years; Jim sentenced by the Court of Prince Edward County to transportation from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1858 for attempting to rape a white woman, aged 17 years; Jim Fox sentenced by the Court of Fluvanna County to transportation from the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 1858 for murder, aged 24 years; Tom sentenced by the Court of Loudoun County to transportation from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 1858 aged 18 years; Harry sentenced by the Court of Halifax County to transportation from the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 1858 for murder, aged 30 years; Henry Myers sentenced by the Court of Culpeper County to transportation from the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 1858 for beating a white man, aged 25 years; Lamb sentenced by the Court of Norfolk County to transportation from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 1860 for arson, aged 20 years; Noah sentenced by the Court of Page County to transportation from the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 1860.

**Richmond Va. 1<sup>st</sup> November 1860**

**Box 7, Folder 2, Accession #36787**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

A list of Free Negroes and Slave convicts in the Penitentiary for hire 8 January 1861

Names	Received	Crime	County	Age	length	color	Sentence
Wiley Jackson	Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	murder 2 <sup>nd</sup> deg.	Charlotte	18	5 ft 9	mulatto	16
Henry F. Thomas	Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup>	wounding	Cumbrln.	27	5 ft 8	dark	1
Richard Walker	Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup>	wounding	Dinwiddie	20	5 ft 8	mulatto	8
Benj. Hargrove	Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup>	wounding	Surry	32	5 ft 8	black	3
Solmon Pence	Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	larceny	Nansemond	19	5 ft 6	black	3
John Pence	Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	larceny	Nansemond	26	5 ft 8	black	3
James Scottt	Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	stabbing	Bath	28	4 ft 11	black	2
Samuel Hubbard	Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup>	stabbing	Westmnd	26	5 ft 8	illegible	7
Trelly Jubille	Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup>	cutting &c.	Accomack	20	5 ft 4	dark	3
Dudley Richardson	Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	cutting &c.	Danville	24	5 ft 1	black	2
Henry Lovill	Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	burglary	Danville	29	5 ft 2	black	1

**SLAVES**

Tom	Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>		Amherst	42	5 ft 6	black	
Bill	Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>		Jefferson	19	5 ft 8	black	
J-----	Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Dinwiddie	25	5 ft 2	black	
John Rickes	Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>		New Kent	32	5 ft 6	mulatto	
Lee	Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup>		Amelia	27	5 ft 4	black	
Oscar	Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>		Loudoun	19	5 ft 4	mulatto	
Densen	Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>		Pr. Wm.	37	5 ft 5	black	
Lewis	Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>		Richmond	42	5 ft 3	black	

**Brentsville, Va., December 29<sup>th</sup> 1860**  
**Box #7, Folder 2, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
Hon. John Letcher

Dear Sir,

Mr. John H. Brent of Alexandria was a year ago displaced as Director of the Farmers Bank under circumstances somewhat galling to his feelings though you certainly did not mean I am sure to reflect imperiously on him. I write you to urge upon you the propriety of re-\_\_\_\_\_ him in that position. Mr. Brent has been a good and true Democrat all his life and has the confidence of the business men of Alexandria to as great an extent as any citizen of the city.

He was proposed as a private director and rejected because he was a Democrat. Hoping you will appoint him I am

Yours &c. &c.  
Eppa Hunton

**Penitentiary of Virginia, Richmond, January 14<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Pardon of John Cornwell**  
**Box #7, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

On the requirement of Governor John Letcher I state that John Cornwell a prisoner in the penitentiary from the County of Prince William is an old and infirm man, he is well behaved though hypocondiacal & melancholy, has never rendered any efficient labor, any is not capable of much. His health has not been materially impaired by confinement, but his digestion is feeble & his bowels often disorderly.

W. A. Pattison, Surgeon  
of the Penitentiary

**Penitentiary of Virginia, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1861**  
**Pardon of James Cornwell**  
**Box #7, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Pleas at the Court House of Prince William County before the Circuit Court of said County on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty six George Weedon, Foreman, Hector Kincheloe, Burr Glascock, William F. Hodgkin, Austin B. Weedon, Christopher Windsor, Samuel Troth, James Maddox, George A. Cannon, Thomas Jones, John Fair, Thompson Fairfax, Alexander Pearson, Benson Davis, Hampton Brenton and Benjamin Johnson were sworn a Grand Jury of Inquest for the body of this County, and having received their charge, withdrew and after sometime returned into Court and presented an Indictment against James Cornwell for Murder "A True Bill" which indictment is in these words following to wit; Ninth Judicial Circuit, Prince William County to Wit, In the Circuit Court of said County. The Jurors of the Commonwealth of Virginia in and for the body of the County of Prince William and now attending the said Court upon their oaths present that James Cornwell on the twenty eighth day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty six, with force and arms in the county aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of the said court, in and upon one Thomas Turner in the Peace of God and the said Commonwealth, then and there being, feloniously and willfully and of his malice aforethought, did make an assault, and that the said James Cornwell with a certain knife of the value of twenty five cents, in his right hand then and there had and held, him the said Thomas Turner, in and upon the left side of the abdomen of him the said Thomas Turner, then and there, feloniously, willfully an of his malice aforethought, did strike and thrust giving to the said Thomas Turner then and there with the knife aforesaid, in and upon the aforesaid left side of the abdomen of him the said Thomas Turner one mortal wound of the breast of three inches and of the depth of three inches of which said Mortal Wound, the said Thomas Turner from the said twenty eighth day of August in the year aforesaid until the second day of September in the year aforesaid in the County aforesaid did languish and languishing did live. On which said second day of September in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Six the said Thomas Turner in the County aforesaid of the said, mortal wound died; and so the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say that the said James Cornwell the said Thomas Turner in manner and form aforesaid feloniously willfully and of his malice aforethought did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia upon the evidence of Wm. F. Renoe, Samuel F. Davis and L. A. Jennings sworn and sent to give evidence to the Grand Jury by the Court.

Eppa Hunton

Attorney for Commonwealth in said Court

Upon the evidence of William F. Renoe, Samuel F. Davis and L. A. Jennings of Prince William County. Sworn and sent to give evidence to the Grand Jury by the Court.

And whereupon the James Cornwell laborer, late of the County of Prince William who stands indicted of murder was set to the bar in custody of the jailor of this court arraigned of the said murder and pleaded not guilty of the indictment, whereupon came a jury to wit: Landy Dowell, Samuel T. King, B. G. Moxley, James Smith, David S. Robinson, Oscar F. Pattie, Michael House, Moses Lynn, Henry Calvert, Albert M. Arrington, Thomas R. Alexander, and Minor Fairfax who being elected tried and sworn the truth of and upon the premises to speak and having partly heard the evidence, were with the consent of the prisoner committed to the custody of the Sheriff of this County, who is directed to keep them together without communication with any other person and to cause them to appear here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, Whereupon an oath was administered to William E. Goodwin sheriff of this County and Thomas K. Davis his deputy to the following effect you shall well and truly, to the best of your ability keep this jury and neither speak to them yourselves nor suffer any other person to speak to them touching any matter relative to this trial until they return into court tomorrow and the said James Cornwell is remanded to Jail. And at another day "to wit" at a Circuit Court held for said County on the 14 October in the year 1856, James Cornwell late of the County of Prince William, who stands indicted of Murder, was again led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of this Court and the Jury sworn for his trial to Wit: Landy Dowell, Samuel T. King, B. G. D. Moxley, James Smith, David S. Robinson, Oscar F. Pattie, Michael House, Moses Lynn, Henry Calvert, A. M. Arrington, Thomas R. Alexander, and Minor Fairfax were brought in to court by the sheriff of this county and having fully heard the evidence upon their oath do say that the said James Cornwell is guilty of Murder in the second degree and they do ascertain the time of his imprisonment in the public jail and penitentiary house to be sixteen years and the said James Cornwell thereupon moved the court to set aside the said verdict and grant a new trial under the indictment aforesaid which motion the court doth overrule to which opinion of the court the prisoner expected and tendered his bill of exception which was received signed and sealed by the court and ordered to be made part of the record in this cause whereupon he is remanded to jail.

At which day to wit: At a Circuit Court held for the County of Prince William on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 1856 James Cornwell late of the County of Prince William who stands convicted of murder in the second degree was again led to the bar in custody of the jailor of this court and thereupon it being demanded of him anything for himself he had or knew to say why the court here should not now proceed to pronounce judgment against him according to law and nothing being offered or alleged in delay of judgment it is considered by the court that the said James Cornwell be imprisoned in the public jail and Penitentiary House of this Commonwealth for the term of Sixteen years the period the Jurors in their verdict ascertained and it is ordered that the Sheriff of this County do as soon as possible after the adjournment of this court remove and safely convey the said James Cornwell from the Jail, of this court to the said public jail and penitentiary house therein to be kept imprisoned and treated in the manner directed by law and the court doth certify that on the trial of the said James Cornwell nothing appeared to the court either in aggravation or extenuation of the offence of the said James Cornwell nor did it appear that before the commission of the said offence he was of bad or good character or that he had ever been convicted or tried for any felony or other infamous crime and thereupon the said James Cornwell is remanded to Jail.

The following is a copy of the evidence: Wm. F. Renoe for Commonwealth says. I was up at Mr. Davis' at the Show on Thursday in August. Mr. Davis was not at home and Mrs. Davis asked me to stay until he came - I told her I would - I hadn't been there over 15 minutes before the deceased asked me to set him out something to drink. I did so and the deceased, the prisoner and Mr. Fair all drank and the deceased paid me - as I turned around to put up the decanter heard the prisoner say something to deceased - don't remember what the deceased said if you don't behave yourself damn you I'll make you - the prisoner replied I'll cut your guts out, as he said so he walked up to deceased and then walked back to near the place he started from - the deceased examined Bill I am a ruined man - I said ruined how Tom? - he replied that man has cut me to death. I said no I reckon not Tom - he Bill I am a dead man- get over the counter and go for the doctor - I then got over the counter between the prisoner and deceased - as I got over I saw the prisoner with a knife in his hand and that the deceased was cut - I went on after the doctor and when I returned with him the deceased had fallen at the place I left him standing. The wound was in the left side of the abdomen. When I returned the prisoner was coming out of the porch door.

CROSS EXAMINED - When deceased told the prisoner to behave himself they were standing some distance apart - The prisoner walked up to deceased and made a blow - saw a fight between the prisoner and John Renoe some short time before the stabbing (about half an hour) The prisoner was intoxicated, was very drunk - I don't think he knew altogether what he was about - I heard a fuss in Davis' and went in and found the prisoner and John Renoe fighting - I caught hold of Reno and said for God sake behave yourself and don't strike an old man - Then Cornwell struck John two or three times while I was parting them and the deceased came up and said don't hold one man and not the other - the deceased and I parted them - When I went up the prisoner was down and John

Renoe on him but not hurting him much – I don't know that I saw a lick struck until I took hold to part them – then they both exchanged blows – The deceased helped me to take John away from prisoner – he taking prisoner and I John Renoe – When I came back in about fifteen minutes John Renoe was asleep on porch bench.

Wm. F. Renoe  
(his X mark)

Samuel Davis for Commonwealth – On the evening of the Circus I was coming back to the show and met Mr. Wm. Renoe who said he was going after the Doctor – I walked upon the porch of Mr. Davis and met the prisoner – heard someone groan and heard the prisoner say God Damn You if I have not given you enough I can come back and finish you, and he walked on out with his knife in his hand – I went in and took the candle off the counter and looked at the deceased lying on the floor and said Mr. Fair this man is cut open, the prisoner has cut him open – the deceased was cut on the left side of the abdomen – the knife in prisoners hand was a short knife – The prisoner seemed very drunk.

S. F. Davis

James Fair for Commonwealth – I came up to the show about sundown – the prisoner was on the porch of Mr. Davis alone rearing – I asked him what was the matter he said God damn you I'll cut your guts out and I went on in without saying more to him. The deceased was there and asked me to drink and I took a drink and walked out – the prisoner came in and said can I take a drink too, the deceased said certainly Mr. Cornwell – I went out and did not see whether the prisoner drank or not – I heard the prisoner running on and heard the deceased say to him behave yourself – the next I heard was the prisoner said God damn you I'll cut your guts out – the deceased at once exclaimed I am a ruined man – I went in and found the deceased on the floor – I did not see the prisoner after I went in – The prisoner was pretty hot in liquor – I have known him for years we were on friendly terms.

Jas. Fair  
(his mark)

Wm. E. Goodwin for Commonwealth – I went in with Dr. Jennings and asked who cut the deceased and was told it was the prisoner and took a light and went out and found the prisoner under the platform of Mr. Davis behind a large hogshead leaning on it – I asked him what he was doing there – he said nothing – I told he has cut the entrails out of deceased – He commenced talking about Rives and said they had been trying to black him again and damn him if had not – told me not to come near him – I grabbed him and as I did it he run his hand in his pocket – I took his hand out – he had a knife in his pocket the same before the Court – John A. King and myself took him in the house and tied him – He did all he could to prevent our tying him – he had been drinking a good deal & seemed to be intoxicated. I doubt whether he knew what he was about – when he is drinking, he is in a great measure deprived of his senses. I was present sometime last spring when Rives & the prisoner had a difficulty and the prisoner stabbed Rives or Rives was stabbed and the prisoner was said to have done it. I suppose the prisoner went under the porch to hide himself. I should suppose the prisoner drinking as he was, ought to have had sense enough to know it was wrong to cut a man but I don't know whether he had or not.

Wm. E. Goodwin

Dr. Jennings for the Commonwealth – I was the surgeon called upon to dress the wounds of deceased. I found the wound in his groin about 3 inches in length obliquely across his left side of the abdomen – it seemed as if the knife entered into the lower part of the wound and cut up – the wound penetrated through the cavity of the belly and when I saw him nearly all his intestines were out. I restored them to their proper position with the assistance of Dr. Vowles and we closed the wound. Soon after he expressed a desire to pass his water, the catheter was introduced and blood passed showing the knife had penetrated the bladder. Blood continued to pass at every introduction of the catheter for about 24 hours for about 24 hours after we drew off clear urine – after that for some time the catheter passed nothing until the morning preceding the day of his death when matter passed from which time he gradually sunk until the next morning Tuesday when he died – He was stabbed the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August on Thursday night. It was about 8 o'clock when I first saw him. I am satisfied he died from suppuration of the bladder caused by the wound. He died on Tuesday morning next (word smeared) the infliction of the wound about ½ past 8 o'clock. His mind was perfectly clear from the time he was stabbed until a few minutes before he died. On the evening he was stabbed when one found his bladder was cut. Dr. Vowles & myself told him he must die we did not think there was a possible chance for him to recover. He said he was satisfied he was going to die – he told Mr. King he owed him some money and wanted him to go to Mr. Jones where he had some barrels & pay himself 7 the balance he wanted to go to James Fair & his wife & daughters. The Justice Mr. Thornton was then called in and took down the dying declaration of the deceased in writing – on the evening before he died Dr. Thornton whom I had requested to see him told him he must die and ask him if he had anything to say in addition to what he had stated on the evening he was stabbed, the deceased said as well as he recollected he had no addition to make, he was asked to state again who it was that stabbed him, he replied Mr. Cornwell & without the slightest provocation. After we found the catheter

passed clear water I had some hope he might recover – that the bladder would heal – although I knew it was very seldom the case. I think I communicated this hope to the prisoner.

L. A. Jennings

R. G. Davis for Prisoner – On the night of Circus I started for the show. I called in to see Mr. Davis & walked in the corner of the bar room – several persons were there – John Renoe , the prisoner 7 the deceased – a fight ensued between the deceased, Rives and the prisoner – Mr. Rives came in and separated them – cannot say whether the deceased participated in the fight or was trying to separate them – in a few moments I left and when I returned I saw the deceased on the floor stabbed & Dr. Jennings was putting his intestines back.

R. G. Davis

**Prince William County, Virginia, January 1861**

**Pardon of James Cornwell**

**Box #7, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To His Excellency Henry A. Wise, governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

The undersigned citizens of the County of Prince William respectfully represent that at this October term 1856 of the Circuit Court of Prince William County, James Cornwell was convicted of murder in the second degree and sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary for the term of sixteen years. That the circumstances attending the offence for which he was convicted, shew that it was the result of a fit of intoxication, into which he had fallen, and that there was no malice or ill will existing between the said Cornwell and the deceased. The evidence in this case was put upon the record and accompanies this petition, and a writ of error having been refused by the court of appeals, the said Cornwell was sent to the penitentiary for the term aforesaid. Your petitioners state that Cornwell is about sixty years of age, had always resided in the county of Prince William, and up to the time of this unfortunate \_\_\_ had been the character of an honest peaceable and industries citizen, that he has a wife and three children, your petitioners believe he is under the circumstances of his case, a fit subject for Executive clemency. They therefore pray that your Excellency may grant to the said James Cornwell a pardon for the residue of the term of his imprisonment.

J. M. Savage  
John H. Lynn  
P. D. Williams  
R. Cooper  
Thomas Homes  
Benjamin Cooper  
William F. Hodgkin  
Robert A. Calvert  
M. M. Roseberry  
Charles G. Howison  
John King  
A. Nicol  
John D. Davis  
Ludwell Whalon  
James W. Davis  
Wm. Mankin  
Wm. Arrington  
William Renoe  
John Bland  
James R. Webster  
Rezin Webster  
James Cornwell  
Robert P. Nutt  
John M. Payne  
Wm. J. Hixson  
Moses Hixson  
George F. Carney  
George B. Adams

W. H. Simpson  
John Arnold  
Bernard Arnold  
E. B. Ellicott  
Caleb S. Davis  
Owen W. Latimer  
C. T. Jardelia  
Richard J. Reid  
J. T. Leachman  
Robert Weedon  
B. H. Shackleford  
Matt Davis  
Edward McEwing  
Jno T. Williams  
John Carter  
Thomas Pettit  
Road Loveless  
C. Renoe  
W. H. Smoot  
John Cross  
E. Gaines  
E. B. Trenis  
E. W. Petty  
C. A. Nelson  
P. D. Lipscomb  
J. L. Hammett  
Joseph Curl  
John Doughty

Wm. A. B. Smith  
Newton Woodyard  
L. A. Jennings  
Francis Robertson  
W. G. Brawner  
Lucien A. Davis  
Thomas R. Newman  
Frederick P. Williams  
B. P. Mitchell  
Robert E. Leachman  
John P. Phillips of Fauq.  
Benson Davis  
John Keys  
Vernon Davis  
Alexander Pearson  
F. C. Davis  
George W. Garner  
Hedgeman Carney  
C. W. Holland  
Edward Harding  
James Fewell  
W. J. Manuel  
A. H. Keys  
C. B. Tebbs  
F. P. Brawner of Culpeper  
J. K. Davis  
William B. Carter  
Wm. E. Lipscomb

John C. Weedon  
W. W. Davis  
J. R. Purcell  
John Fair  
Charles R. Goodwin  
John C. Deats  
Lucien E. Powell  
Thomas H. Cornwell  
Northumberland Pearson  
William Posey  
William J. Bryant  
John H. Purcell  
James Vowles  
Leroy Lynn  
Montreville Cornwell  
Wm. W. Thornton  
Moses Lynn  
Samuel Wolverton  
R. F. Brawner  
L. B. Butler  
George H. Lynn  
Alexander Reno  
Benjamin H. Cockrell  
Wm. Wright  
John Finch  
Thomas P. Hixson  
George M. Abel  
R. L. Waring  
James Abell  
Charles F. Norman  
Obed. Cornwell  
James A. Cornwell  
L. B. Norvill  
Jno Williams  
John D. Dogan  
M. N. Lynn  
Horace Cole  
L. F. Lynn  
William Bell  
James S. Fair  
John Suthard  
Waller Molair  
Kendrick B. Cole  
C.M.Copen  
Foster M. Finch  
G. W. Gregg  
Henry A. Duvall  
Richard T. Mattocks  
David S. Robinson

Jas Howison  
Wm. E. Goodwin  
E. Nelson  
Isaac Florence  
C. Cooper  
William Goodwin  
L. C. Lynn  
Robert W. Wilkins  
Samuel Davis  
Elias E. Conner  
John J. Beavers  
Reuben C. Reid  
Roy Cornwell  
Weldman N. Chapel  
A. King  
Isaac W. Davis  
M. Fitzhugh  
John T. Suthard  
Caleb Simpson  
R. G. Davis  
T. Fitzhugh  
F. Clayton Williams  
Henry Love  
Cassius Foley  
Andrew J. Carter  
Wm. W. Monroe  
John Cornwell  
Chapman Copin  
Basil Cole  
Benson L. Pridmore  
George A. Bowling  
James Florence  
Daniel Crump  
Hugh Davis  
Thomas N. Berryman  
James Larkin  
Wm. Lynn  
John R. Kincheloe  
Charles Davis  
William W. Suthard  
E. J. T. Clark  
A. J. Davis  
A. B. Weedon  
Madison Finch  
John Cross  
Samuel Caten  
A. M. Arrington  
G. W. Fitzhugh  
B. G. D. Moxley

James Keys  
T. W. Tansill  
R. Foster  
Hugh B. Draney  
Thomas H. Dowell  
John R. Goodwin  
William Lynn  
John F. Renoe  
William F. Renoe  
James W. Moore  
William Beavers  
Henry Bryant  
John Mathews  
S. T. King  
J. R. Cornwell  
Richard M. Weir  
Wm. Brawner  
Richard D. Shacklette  
J. B. Grayson  
Wm. C. Tolson  
W. Washington  
F. M. Lewis  
Robert Molair  
Thomas R. Alexander  
Lewis Mountjoy  
Bernard Person  
E. A. Maxfield  
A. Howison  
L. Cole  
John Molair  
Elijah Abel  
Miner Fairfax  
Solomon Brill  
Edward M. Spilman  
Thos. C. Frasher  
Addison Rollins  
R. G. Maddox  
James M. Barbee  
Peter Cornil  
Matthew Finegan  
Joshua Taylor  
D. B. Kincheloe  
D. W. Allan  
John Higbie  
Thomas Chamberlin  
G. M. Ivy  
John A. Davis  
Henry Robinson

I William Fitzhugh, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Prince William County do certify that Moses Lynn, Samuel T. King, Minor Fairfax, Thomas R. Alexander, B. G. D. Moxley, David S. Robinson and A. M. Arrington who signed the following petition were jurors in the case of the Commonwealth vs James Cornwell.

M. Fitzhugh, clerk

**Richmond, Virginia, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1861**

**Pardon of John Cornwell**

**Box #7, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

At the October Term 1856 of the Circuit Court for Prince William County, John Cornwell was found guilty of murder in the second degree, and sentenced to sixteen years imprisonment in the Penitentiary. The prisoner is upwards of sixty years of age, and according to the certificate of Doctor Pattison, surgeon of the Penitentiary is infirm, hypocondiacal and melancholy, and has never rendered any efficient service. Previous to the commission of this offence he sustained the character of a peaceable industrious, quiet and inoffensive man. The delegate in the General Assembly from the County of Prince William, and two hundred and forty two of the most respectable citizens of that county, as I am assured by the delegate, now apply for his pardon. In consideration of his previous good character, his infirm health, his advanced age, the propriety his deportment since his confinement. I have determined to discharge him as I consider the law has been fully vindicated.

John Letcher

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 1861

**Richmond, July 10<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Executive Department**

**Box #16, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To the Sheriff or Jailor of the County of Fauquier

Dear Sir,

The Governor has been informed by the British Consul here that an Irishman named Henry Green is detained in the jail of Fauquier County in consequence of his refusing to enlist in a military body. He is stated to be a British subject not naturalized in this country. The governor desires to be informed whether there has been or is any such person in your jail & the facts relating to the case. It is desirable to obtain full information that it may be communicated to the consul for his Government. A speedy answer is requested.

Very respectfully

George W. Mumford

Secy. of the Commonwealth

**Brentsville, Prince William County, July 15<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Box #16, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Honorable John Letcher, Governor of Virginia, Dear sir as the Militia of Virginia has been called into service and by your proclamation the Sheriff of each County has been released for the use and benefit of the State in the Collection of the Revenue and as the Colonel of the Militia of this County will not "Release any" Deputy. I therefore respectfully ask that your honour will release Edwin Nelson & Francis J. Cannon the Deputies now qualified and that, have been acting as Deputies for me in the County of Prince William, as it is important to the interest of Virginia that they should continue if this should meet with your approbation please let me hear from you as the business of the County is in want of their attention.

Yours Very respectfully

Wm. E. Goodwin

Sheriff of Prince William County

**Richmond, Virginia, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**General Orders – Executive Department**

**Box #16, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

In the requisition for the Militia called for by the President of the Confederate States & embraced in the proclamation of the Governor of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant. The following classes of persons will be exempt from the call:

First, all operatives employed in the manufacture of arms, ammunition or other munitions of war, and woolen goods for the troops, & the persons superintending them, whether the manufacture be for the Confederate States or for the State of Virginia; In each case the person or persons employed must obtain the certificate of the Military Officers or department employing him or them, before the exemption will be allowed.

Second, All officers of Banks & other Branches who shall be certified by the President thereof to be necessary for carrying on the operation of the institution.

Third, Overseers of Farms, who shall produce the certificate of their employer or other authorized agent that they are so employed.

Fourth, All millers necessarily and personally employed in any grist mill, upon the production of a certificate of their being so employed by some justice of the peace of their County or Corporation.

Fifth, The Police force of the Cities of Richmond, Staunton & Fredericksburg, upon the production of a certificate of their office from the mayor of such city or town respectively.

Sixth, Persons necessary to the operation & running of Rail Roads and the repair of their rolling stock. Also those necessary to the operation of Telegraph Lines upon the production of certificates from the President or superintendent of such Railroads or the manager of such Telegraph Lines.

In addition to these exemptions persons are authorized to obtain members of Volunteer Companies for the War out of the ranks of the Militia Companies under the proclamation of the Governor calling for three thousand men until that number are obtained and when such a volunteer company is organized the persons enrolled therein are to be exempt from the Militia duty, upon producing the certificate of the Captain of such company.

All officers enrolling the Militia or Mustering them into service are hereby ordered to allow the exceptions herein mentioned & give a written discharge to those who may have been enrolled or mustered into service when satisfied that the parties are entitled to exception.

By order of the Governor

**Orange Court House, Virginia July 17<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Box #16, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To Hon. John Letcher, governor of Virginia

Dear Sir,

Under your proclamation for the Militia of this County to be reposition at Manassas to General Beauregard. The Colonel of this County has ordered John S. Rose my Deputy Sheriff to Manassas. You will please inform me if he is exempt from that duty as I contend that he was under your proclamation some time since – if not, will you be so kind as to release him as now is the time to collect the taxes. Our business is so unmanaged that I cannot get along without him.

Your immediate attention will greatly oblige your Obedient Servant,  
Jas L. Robinson, Sheriff  
Orange County, Va.

**Brentsville, Virginia July 19<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Box #16, Folder 4, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To Hon. John Letcher

Dear Sir,

In the proclamation of the 16 inst. in regard to the call of the Militia there is various discussions in regard to the Third Article. Is an overseer exempt that labors a part of the time on the plantation or not? I desire to know whether I am exempt. I are employed by my mother to oversee both of her plantations and have been employed by her for 3 years, and she is not able to control the servants on the farm. Please inform me of the meaning of that article in the next mail.

By so doing you will oblige yours &c.  
Isaac Kline

**Prince William County, Virginia July 20<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #16, Folder 4, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
To Hon. John Letcher, Richmond, Virginia

Sir,

Although this letter comes from an unknown name I beseech you to read it. I am a Presbyterian Minister & have no object in deceiving you.

I can well understand that profound policy necessitated the call for the Militia. It was desired to stimulate the volunteer movement, and to show our enemies that we were a united people. Tho perhaps for convenience of draft. I presume there are other reasons which are not patent to an outsider. Amongst those reasons it is not supposed that increasing the means of defence by the Militia per se had any part. For in battle they are worthless.

I have always believed that this call would be temporary. I write now to lay before you some facts which may be deemed worthy of attention. The oats are rotting in the fields, the ploughing of the corn is not ended, the people made small crops of wheat, & straw there is little, and the hay is rapidly being lost. I fear I am in bounds when I say that millions a day are being lost, or soon will be.

The people can pay no taxes & there will be such a famine as occurred in Ireland, unless something is done. I speak in behalf of the common people. In Middle Southern Virginia the men can go & leave Negroes to do the work, but here where the farms are small & there are few Negroes, the work must be left undone.

Before the call for the Militia, I heard of \$5.00 a day offered for hands. Imagine what it must be now.

If a leave of absence for three weeks or even two could be granted, the oats might be half saved & the grass more than half. I was at one of the points of rendezvous yesterday, and saw men who told me they were ruined by this call. But not one complaint did I hear.

Honored Sir, You love your people & your people love you. Help them in their distress. Let them save their hardly made crops, that they and their families may not starve. Give them a temporary respite at least, and thousands of hearts will bless you. It is believed that the ends for which the Militia were called have been attained. All have volunteered who will be made by this to do it. And the enemy now knows that all have taken up arms against him.

I respectfully refer to Dr. Hoge, to Mr. Richard Dibrell, & to my brother, Lt. B. S. Ewell as regards my character. I am respectfully,

William Stoddert

**Confederate States of America War Department**  
**Richmond, Virginia July 24<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Box #16, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

J. E. McMullen has permission to visit Manassas & Winchester upon his honor as a man, that he will not communicate in writing or verbally, or publication, any fact ascertained by him. He goes for the body of one who was killed in battle.

L. P. Walker  
Secretary of War

**Battlefield near Manassas, July 24<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #16, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Gov. Letcher,

Dear Sir, You are aware that I am exempt from all military service even in time of war, being clerk of the County Court. I nevertheless entered the field on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April & have been rendering such service since as I could. I offered to resign the Clerkship of the Court, but a full court of the Justices refused to accept my resignation as I had left as Deputy Wm. A. Burnett one of the best Clerk's in the State. Mr. Burnett writes me that they are about to compel him to serve in the Militia. If he is forced to go, there is no one I can get in his place and it would result in forcing me to quit my Company now one of the largest & best in the State & go home, or let the office be closed till the Court could be convened to appoint a clerk pro tem. As I am by law exempt, but am in fact in the field, can you not treat me as a substitute for Mr. Burnett and direct M. G. Harman not to draft him? If so please drop a line to Harman at once. Burdett is really a member of my Company, but by a By Law of the Company & a unanimous vote before we left home he was permitted to remain in the office as my Deputy. All I ask is that you will now ratify the unanimous wish of my Company & of the County Court of my County.

My official report to Gen. Whitig will perhaps fall under your eye soon, and you will see we did our duty on Sunday last. My battery was the first in the fight & was under fire from 14 guns for several hours. We were badly cut up, but held our own till all our ammunition was gone and I think we did the enemy more damage than any other 100 men in our army. They shattered one of my guns which I have turned over to be sent to Richmond for repairs.

Respectfully,

J. D. Imboden

(The Governor wrote on the back of the letter "W. A. Burnell Exempt")

**Head of Holeston, Smyth County, Va., July 31, 1861**

**Box #16, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Gov. Letcher, Sir.

Some of my friends advise me to write to you asking you to let my son come home from Manassas Junction he went on with Captain A. G. Penalton recruits he volunteered on Saturday and left on Monday he was persuaded to do it I have been so troubled that I cannot eat or sleep he is 17 years old one year younger than the law requires him to be he never mustered in his life never was drilled one moment I think I could have got off after him but my friends persuaded me to let him go on with them others said you would send him back to me, they did not want to let any of them off please to let him come home he is the only son I have I buried two daughters in seven days and to gave up my only son now is more than I bare myself are both sick her (-----) is so great for her brother that medicine will do her cough no good I have three daughters we live on the rail road between two shanties where the hands are passing all hours of the night I live in search all the time for \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ in where they \_\_\_\_\_ we are alone when my son was here I felt safe we have two families here that we are taking care of there husbands volunteered and left them five in one family and four in the other it hurts my feelings very much to them that I helped to \_\_\_ and the volunteers gave sometime to \_\_\_ \_\_\_ my money with them and \_\_\_ \_\_\_ I as they passed on and had to gave up my one son I have no farther mother now to call on they have all passed away I must call on you to sympathies with a broken hearted mother one of our ministers said you was man of fine feeling that you had pardon some of the convicts before their time was out and thought you would not refuse to grant my request if you discharge my son pleas to gave him something to show that he got off honorably he is a good and faithful son all ways has been born his own expenses home if you will let come Mr. A. G. Penalton the Capt. of the command & I \_\_\_ raised in one male \_\_\_\_\_ he is much a respected man he will not refuse to let off my son name is John D. Buchanan if you will let him come home please write and tell me when you will send him my hope rest on you can make my house happy or miserable he weak breasted is not able to be what they have to do I hope you will write as soon as this reaches you let me know what you will do please do not refuse me if you do I cannot live my trouble will be to great Direct your letter to Me very \_\_\_\_\_ grant my request and God will creson you with blessings I hope I hear from you as my mind is so destroubled.

Yours truly

Mary G. Buchanan

**Abington, Virginia July 29<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Box #16, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Hon. John Letcher:

Dear sir I have been requested by a number of citizens to ask that you forward some half dozen pairs of the "Hand-Cuffs" said to have been captured from the Hessians at Manassas a few days since by our army. Should you do so, they will be deposited in the Clerk's Offices of this and adjoining counties; and will doubtless have an excellent effect in bringing out scores of hardy Mountaineers as Volunteers for the Army.

If you consent, please send per Express to this place, and I will see that they reach the proper destinations.

Yours very respectfully,

H. W. Baker

**Brentsville, Virginia July 27<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #16, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the indigent of this county, I write you for the purpose of obtaining the release of L. F. Lynn, who is one of the overseers of the poor of this county from military duty. Your proclamation of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. calling out the Militia embraced the overseers of the poor, while your proclamation of the 17<sup>th</sup> did not exempt them. It appears to me that they are a class who's services are so much needed at home as any other class embraced in your proclamation of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Indeed it has been upon the faith of the assurance that these men will remain at home and provide for the families of the needy that many a poor man has volunteered his services in defense of his country, when under these circumstances he would have considered it his duty to remain at home for their support. With the view also the County Court of this County in making a large appropriation for the support of the families of the poor whose natural guardians should go into the service, directed its expenditures by said overseers. To exempt this class of persons would interfere but little with the service, as nearly all of them are already exempt because of age or otherwise. To propose sending any more of them into the service would be to deprive the poor to a great extent of the provisions made for them by the county. Mr. Lynn is the only one in the County not now exempt from military duty. While this is the case, because of his peculiar locality it is more important that his service should be retained as an overseer than any other of his associates. He is appointed in a district bordering the Potomac where a large portion of the inhabitants derive their support from the wood cut by them and sold in Washington and Alexandria markets. The war and the blockade having cut off the whole of their usual support many of the men having volunteered their service in defense of their country. Those at home are left dependant. Indeed it is almost a matter of necessity that Mr. Lynn's service should be retained by them. And should you not feel authorized to make the release general throughout the state, I am sure from the peculiar circumstances of this case, it will be considered by you as an exception and entitled to exceptions. You will much oblige by giving this your early and favorable consideration.

Yours very respectfully  
A. Nicol

**Camp near Manassas Junction, July 26<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Rockbridge Rifle Company**  
**Box #16, Folder 7, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Governor Letcher Sir:

I thought that I would write to you and see if I could get a transfer from the Rockbridge Rifle Company to the Rockbridge Artillery Company. I have two brothers in that Company, and they need more men I believe, besides the Rockbridge Rifle Company got thirty new recruits yesterday and I think they could easily spare me. You would confer great favor by so doing. I have been with the artillery company for some time. I was detailed to help to man a twenty four pounder which was under Capt. Pendleton's command.

Yours Truly  
S. P. N. McCampbell

P.S. Please let me know as soon as convenient.  
S. Mc

**Manassas, Virginia, July 29<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #16, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
Gov. Letcher

Sir, The undersigned officers of the companies of the 33<sup>rd</sup> regiment of Virginia Volunteers respectfully ask that Capt. John R. Jones of Company I of this regiment be appointed Lieut. Col. of the regiment. Capt. J. is a military graduate, has had many years experience as instructor of tactics and has seen service. He has the confidence of officers and men. The regiment is composed of men from his own and adjoining counties in the valley of Virginia, has recently been organized, and has no field officers except that of Col. A.C. Cummings.

Respectfully  
W. D. Rippetoe – Capt. company H. 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.

G. W. Allen - Capt. company H. 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.  
Jno L. Pitman – 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. company H. 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.  
V. Ripley – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. company H. 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.  
George Buck – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Prov. Army Va. Co.  
R. Fadely – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Prov. K. 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.  
John Daily 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieut. \_\_\_ Guards.  
M. Shules – 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieut. Commanding Co. H. 33 Regiment  
Jno Gatewood – Capt. Co. C. Va. Vols.  
Jno H. Grabill – Lieut Co. C. 38<sup>th</sup> Regt.  
George Huston – 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Co. I. 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt.  
4 Captains & some Lieuts. Are absent.

**Camp near Manassas, July 30<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Reg. Va. Vol.**

**Box #16, Folder 7, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Hon. Judge Brockenborough

Dear Sir: I enclose a petition by the commissioned officers of this regiment asking that I be appointed Lieut. Col. Of the Regiment. Also the request of Col. Cummings endorsed by the Genl. of our Brigade. I have command of the largest company in the regiment, and no regiment in the army suffered as much as the 33<sup>rd</sup> in the recent fight. Out of 400 men taken into the fight we had 46 killed and 114 wounded – total 160.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> is composed of companies from the 10<sup>th</sup> Legion – a Col. And Major have been assigned – neither of whom is taken that section of the state – No Lieut. Col. has yet been assigned – You will please read the enclosed papers and present them to the Governor. It is all important that the Regt. be immediately fully officered. It's efficiency depends upon it. You will confer a great favour by presenting my application at once, and getting an immediate decision.

Very Respectfully

John R. Jones

P. S. My Company is from Rockingham

**Seville, Madison County, Va., July 30<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Box #16, Folder 7, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Knowing the multiplicity of cares imposed on you; it was with great reluctance I asked your attention to the effect on our community at large; the \_\_\_ call made upon the Militia which elicited your respectful response to mine (of 17<sup>th</sup> inst) referring to the relief by certain exceptions made by proclamation of the 16 to the relief of Millers, Overseers &c. since that time one obstacle follows another, to the proper adjustment of things. I am an old man that always attends to my own business; After my children had all left me my son Wm. M. Simms (39 years old) returned to live with me. Who I employed as my regular overseer to attend to my Farm Carding Machines. Assist me about the Post Office &c &c. Upon the first call, he marched Madison Court House with knap sack, gun &c. The call being found to be premature he returned home, with orders to be there again the next week. In the mean time, the orders of the 16<sup>th</sup> exonerating Millers, Overseers &c. was made by your Excellency, when I wrote to the officers my peculiar situation & sent them a certificate of the regular employment of my son. But it seems in consequence of more applications being made by sons & son in law, than they thot right; they decided that they all should go to Manassas & then test their claim to exception from duty. My son returned home quite unwell and as soon as he was well again, he went by the way of Gordonsville to Manassas. Upon getting there, he found the Madison Militia had not arrived there (stopping near Culpeper Court House) through the aid of his acquaintance Col. Deane his application for release from service, Certificate &c. was laid before Col. Sterret; and learned from him that he was very much engaged & meant to send this & other applications to your Excellency to decide on. I do not censure the Militia Officers for the course they have thot proper to pursue, but will say the course adopted in the

different counties, have been very irregular; and in many cases have put individuals to much unnecessary trouble. If Col. Sterret sent my sons application, I presume he will send my certificate &c. Should your Excellency exonerate my son from duty. I presume you will notify Col. Sterret of the fact; or would it be asking too much, to ask the report made to me, at this office as it would save us some suspense & much trouble.

From your obedient & humble servant

Wm. Simms of Madison P.M. at Seville

**Executive Department, Richmond, July 10<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Box #16, Folder 7, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To the Sheriff or Jailor of the County of Fauquier County

Dear Sir,

The Governor has been informed by the British Consul here that an Irishman named Henry Green is detained in the Jail of Fauquier County in consequence of his refusing to enlist in a Military body. He is stated to be a British subject not naturalized in this Country. The Governor desires to be informed whether there has been or is any such person in your jail & the facts relating to the case. It is desirable to obtain full information that it may be communicated to the Consul for his Government. A speedy answer is requested.

Very Respectfully

George W. Mumford

Secy. of the Commonwealth

**Camp near Manassas, July 31<sup>st</sup> 1861**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Reg. Va. Vol.**

**Box #16, Folder 7, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Governor Letcher Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that there is not now and has not been a Lt. Col. assigned to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. of Va. Volunteers. Capt. J. R. Jones of the Regt. is a competent officer is acceptable to the regiment. It is sufficient for me to say that Capt. Jones is qualified in every respect to fill the office of Col. or Lt. Col. The regiment is made up from Shenandoah and the adjoining counties. Capt. Jones' company is from Rockingham and I think the section from which the regiment comes is entitled to at least one field officer.

Respectfully,

A. C. Cummings

Col. 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.

I concur with Col. Cummings respecting the qualifications of Capt. Jones.

T. J. Jackson

Brig. Genl. R.A.C.S.

**Camp at Fairfax Station, August 1<sup>st</sup> 1861**

**Box #17, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To all whom it may concern:

We the undersigned Field Officers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment Virginia Volunteers, do hereby certify that Charles A. Sprinkel has been the regularly commissioned and acting Captain of "Co. G." known as the "Valley Guard" of said Regiment – said company being called into service on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 1861, and was in the fight near Manassas Junction, on Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> 1861. This Company comprised a part of the detachment taken that day from the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and was exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy, in which they had two men killed and five wounded.

We also certify that Capt. Sprinkel has been merchandising in Harrisonburg for several years, and has always sustained a high character for integrity; and at the time he was called into service, held the position of Superintendent of Public Schools.

S. B. Gibbons – Col. 10<sup>th</sup> Reg. Va. Vols.

E. T. H. Warren – Lt. Col. 10<sup>th</sup> Reg. Va. Vols.

Saml. T. Walker – Major 10<sup>th</sup> Reg. Va. Vols.

**Stafford County Virginia, August 5<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #17, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**To His Excellency Gov. Letcher**

Dear Sir, I take the liberty to write you a few lines as I wish you to fairly understand the state of things in this county. The Militia has been called out in camp four times & kept out by order of Col. Holmes without any benefit to the state whatever & taking all the men of families from their crops leaving them to destruction & receiving no benefit on their lands. Stafford has furnished considerable more than her number of volunteers but it seems she gets no credit for them. Fauquier County is credited by volunteers from Stafford and so has King George. Fredericksburg and Prince William County also have been credited for Stafford men. Sir it maybe just but I think it's very unfair Stafford is fully entitled to her men they are serving the state. There is young men enough to over fill the number without the credit from other counties. The majority of the men in this county are poor men & if the draft must come, take the young men without families with her volunteers. Stafford is not able to stand a draft, it will take nearly all & further the men are not willing to serve under Colonel Homes. Fill his place with some other man. In haste respectfully yours.

Joseph Wine

**Camp near Manassas, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1861**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.**  
**Box #17, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Governor Letcher Sir:

Some time I wrote an application for a Lieutenancy stating reasons &c. to wit, that I had been a member of the "Southern Guard" (University of Virginia) served at Harpers Ferry. Then as Drill Master at the University School – then as private in Col. Murray's Company (then Captain) – fought in the Battle of Manassas &c. – Since then Col. Smith commanded the Regt. – has appointed me Adjutant – acting, he says, under a recent ordinance of the Virginia Convention allowing sergeants, corporals or privates to be thus promoted – I now write asking information on the subject – at the same time begging that, if I am entitled to a commission, you will have it forwarded.

Enclosed you will find the Col's appointment which was read as evening pa---le and since then I have been acting adjutant.

Yours Respectfully  
Walter Weir

**Camp Bartow, Near Manassas Junction, August 20<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Regt. Ky. Vols.**  
**Box #17, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Sir,

Capt. Fitzhugh will show a letter just received from his wife. Which he will at once explain to you his wishes. I cheerfully give my consent & will see to his company being well attended to.

Yours Respectfully  
Thomas H. Taylor  
Lt. Col. Comp. 1<sup>st</sup> Regt Ky. Vol.

**Camp Bartow, Near Manassas Junction, August 20<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**1<sup>st</sup> Regt. Ky. Vols.**

**Box #17, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Hon. L. P. Walker  
Secretary of War S.C.  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Sir, You will pardon me for encroaching upon your time which I know is so much occupied but it must be done for humanity sake.

I have just received a note from my wife informing me of a very severe and perhaps fatal injury to one of my children also stating that if I wished to see him alive to come at once: This I am anxious to do and appeal to you for a furlough which General Johnston refused me although I had the consent of Col. Thomas H. Taylor and General Jones.

My wife with four small children followed me from Kentucky several weeks after I had volunteered my services to the Southern Confederacy - leaving many friends and relatives in that State in order to be near me. I received marching orders and had to leave her in a large city almost destitute of friends – At my request she left for King William to remain among strangers to her – when she met with the accident to one of her little ones referred to above. Do I beseech you not for me alone but for that wife and babes which are as dear to me as yours – grant me this simple and justifiable request and I shall ever hold you in grateful remembrance as a Patriot and a Christian.

Very Truly & Respectfully Yours &c.  
Capt. L. H. Fitzhugh  
Company Davies Rangers  
1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Kentucky Volunteers

**Camp Bartow, Near Manassas Junction, August 30<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**1<sup>st</sup> Regt. Ky. Volunteers**

**Box #17, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Hon. Jno Letcher, Governor of Virginia

Dear Sir,

I write to inform you that I have made application to the Secretary of War for the appointment of Major in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regt. Ky. Volunteers.

If you can do anything for me in order to secure that position for me I will be under many obligations to you and ever esteem you as a true friend of your

Obedient Servant  
Capt. L. H. Fitzhugh  
Comd Co. C. (Davies Rangers)  
1<sup>st</sup> Regmt. Ky. Volunteers

**June 17<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Manassas Station & Orange Telegraph Line**

**Box #17, Folder 4, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

**The Commonwealth of Virginia to John W. Carroll(?) Dr.**

Expenditures for the construction of the line of telegraph between Manassas Station on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad & Winchester Va.

To Cash paid the following for Vouchers:

Voucher No. 001 Geo. Miller	381 ¼	Voucher No. 002 C. W. Countz	26.75
Voucher No. 003 G. W. Roseberry	37.00	Voucher No. 004 Thos. W. Lake	3.00
Voucher No. 005 R. A. Lang	32.00	Voucher No. 006 C. S. Harris	1.00
Voucher No. 007 C. D. Lang	31.00	Voucher No. 008 Elizabeth Iden	6.58
Voucher No. 009 D. B. Hall	1.40	Voucher No. 010 E. H. Campbell	3.55
Voucher No. 011 John Chapman	177 ½	Voucher No. 012 Jas C. Davis	2.25
Voucher No. 013 E. Newman	9.25	Voucher No. 014 Foster & Company	.50
Voucher No. 015 A. & H. Keister	3.57	Voucher No. 016 B. C. Shacklett	1.38

Voucher No. 017 H. Kinsell	3.00	Voucher No. 018 Thos. M. Lake	10.18
Voucher No. 019 Beller & Burnett	1.13	Voucher No. 020 George K. Crabill	2.25
Voucher No. 021 Amanda Biggs	2.50	Voucher No. 022 Robert Wells	6.50
Voucher No. 023 Henry Sisco	12.25	Voucher No. 024 J. M. Miller	8.40
Voucher No. 025 Wm. Yates Sr.	8.50	Voucher No. 026 Jas Magales	.31
Voucher No. 027 Jas Cowling	.75	Voucher No. 028 J. Sussinger	1.25
Voucher No. 029 J. F. Johnson	1.16	Voucher No. 030 L. E. Balthis	3.01
Voucher No. 031 John Tyler	.19	Voucher No. 032 N. H. Frank	1.09 ½
Voucher No. 033 Jas. M. Gates	69.50	Voucher No. 034 Zew & Pirkey	1.71
Voucher No. 035 Jos Snapp	59.31	Voucher No. 036 Mr. Buckmaster	.12 ½
Voucher No. 037 Jacob Hoffman	1.50	Voucher No. 038 George Bushnell	4.00
Voucher No. 039 D. Anderson	2.00	Voucher No. 040 Hall & Company	1.87
Voucher No. 041 L. T. F. Grim	2.75	Voucher No. 042 C. Ligmund	6.00
Voucher No. 043 A. Davis	3.00	Voucher No. 044 B. Manley	8.75
Voucher No. 045 S. Shirley	2.00	Voucher No. 046 S. Shirley	3.75
Voucher No. 047 S. Shirley	27.00	Voucher No. 048 S. Shirley	19.50
Voucher No. 049 S. Shirley	1.87	Voucher No. 050 A. K. Shirley	3.00
Voucher No. 051 S. Shirley	.75	Voucher No. 052 C. B. R---ss	6.00
Voucher No. 053 C. S. Harris	6.32	Voucher No. 054 J. R. Jenkins	10.75
Voucher No. 055 J. Valentine	37.50	Voucher No. 056 C. Chandler	1.50
Voucher No. 057 Wm. A. Yates	58.50	Voucher No. 058 Jas Venable	57.00
Voucher No. 059 Clapsaddle	3.35	Voucher No. 060 J. Corder	28.00
Voucher No. 061 Buckmaster & Company	4.34	Voucher No. 062 S. Funkheuser	1.00
Voucher No. 063 J. S. Carner	36.41	Voucher No. 064 D. Stickley	4.67
Voucher No. 065 D. J. Miller	35.00	Voucher No. 066 Jno Lucas	5.00
Voucher No. 067 C. Norman	5.00	Voucher No. 068 F. Wells	13.50
Voucher No. 069 E. Beam	2.00	Voucher No. 070 E. Bean	4.00
Voucher No. 071 P. Askins	10.00	Voucher No. 072 H. Thompson	2.00
Voucher No. 073 A. Butler	13.50	Voucher No. 074 H. Carter	8.50
Voucher No. 075 J. L. Miller	5.00	Voucher No. 076 M. M. Breener?	11.50
Voucher No. 077 L. E. Swartzwelder	33.37	Voucher No. 078 G. W. Keller	2.17
Voucher No. 079 C. Mitchell	3.00	Voucher No. 080 George Taylor	10.00
Voucher No. 081 R. W. Cooley	2.50	Voucher No. 082 R. Newman	2.50
Voucher No. 083 A. Allen	.75	Voucher No. 084 Benj. Henry	40.00
Voucher No. 085 A. Henry	4.00	Voucher No. 086 D. Jenkins	40.00
Voucher No. 087 Jno Jackson	2.50	Voucher No. 088 Geo. Gray	12.50
Voucher No. 089 Jas Shipe	2.50	Voucher No. 090 L. Fleet	2.50
Voucher No. 091 P. Collins	2.75	Voucher No. 092 J. Snapp	49.80
Voucher No. 093 Clark & Bell	1.00	Voucher No. 094 Cart Henry	45.50
Voucher No. 095 D. Kimmer	19.00	Voucher No. 096 George Henry	33.00
Voucher No. 097 Nelson Henry	48.50	Voucher No. 098 G. Glammer	4.00
Voucher No. 099 Jas Groves	15.00	Voucher No. 100 J. F. Brown	35.00
Voucher No. 101 J. C. Cammer	11.00	Voucher No. 102 Henry Quartz	43.00
Voucher No. 103 R. Henry	3.00	Voucher No. 104 N. Henry	4.00
Voucher No. 105 Thomas Kilpatrick	8.50	Voucher No. 106 B. McKeiver	3.00
Voucher No. 107 Jas Magales	112.25	Voucher No. 108 J. Benner	3.50
Voucher No. 109 W. D. Maddux	40.00	Voucher No. 110 S. M. Adams	1.50
Voucher No. 111 T. M. Lake	24.64	Voucher No. 112 T. M. Lake	17.00
Voucher No. 113 J. H. Rector	11.25	Voucher No. 114 H. Grove	1.00
Voucher No. 115 B. S. Shacklett	9.71	Voucher No. 116 B. T. Bradford	1.25
Voucher No. 117 J. Harrill	3.25	Voucher No. 118 J. E. Flemming	7.16
Voucher No. 119 Hammock	5.00	Voucher No. 120 J. C. Richardson	99.50
Voucher No. 121 S. Rickard	363.50	Voucher No. 122 Jno Murphy	2.25
Voucher No. 123 A. Ferney	4.00	Voucher No. 124 R. W. Bray	2.00
Voucher No. 125 F. W. Updike	2.62 ½	Voucher No. 126 Thos Spinks	23.75

Total Amount \$2035.39 ¼

To Cash paid A. B. Luding for Voucher #127	24.00
To Cash paid J. Knight for Voucher #128	5.75
To Cash paid Jas M. Bennett for Voucher 129	<u>5.25</u>
	\$2070.39
Add Error in Voucher No. 72	1.00
Add Error in Voucher No. 112	<u>1.00</u>
	\$2072.39
Deduct Error in Voucher No. 107	<u>4.00</u>
	\$2068.39
June 17 <sup>th</sup> 1861 By Cash received of J. R. Dowell	<u>\$2000.00</u>
Balance Due J. W. Carroll	68.39

**Manassas Station, August 31<sup>st</sup> 1861**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Regt. Ky. Volunteers**  
**Box #17, Folder 4, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To Hon. Jno Letcher, Governor of Virginia

We are informed that you contemplate organizing a regiment of Infantry at Montgomery County. If so, we respectfully recommend to you Capt. James C. Taylor of that County as a suitable person for the Lieutenant Colonelcy of that Regiment. Hoping you may appoint him we are very respectfully your obedient servants.

James M. Wade Adjutant  
4<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vols.  
John C. Wade, Lieut.  
Co. G. 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vols.

**Gainesville, Prince William County, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1861**  
**Box #17, Folder 6, film0049, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Sir,

When Virginia seceded from the old rotten abolition government, I held a chaplain's commission in their navy. Being not only a slave owner, but in the fullest sense of the word, Southern in all my feelings & interest, after being satisfied by Capt. Barron (an acquaintance of long standing) and by the ordinance of the convention to the same effect, that if I would apply to you for a commission in the Southern Navy, I should be received. I addressed a letter to you on the 10<sup>th</sup> of last July, formally & after the mode (& language prescribed by several officers of the Confederate Navy) making such application. I have waited long, and received not a word of reply – hence I take the liberty to trouble you again with the same request.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
T. J. Harrison

**State of Virginia, April 18<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #17, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

William H. Moore's Services as Foreman of the Forging Dept. at the Harpers Ferry Armory from 1<sup>st</sup> of April to date – 16 days - \$2.60 per day \$211.60

Prince William County to Wit: I L. B. Butler a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Prince William in the State of Virginia, certified that Wm. H. Moore whose name is recited in the above account as a public creditor of the State of Virginia, personally appeared before me, in my county, aforesaid and made oath that the same is just and true and the time charged also is correct, and that no payment has been heretofore made by the United States for the same, or by the State of Virginia, or Confederate States, and that the creditor will not hereafter claim it from the United States and further that in the pending struggle between the Confederate States of America and the United States he has united himself with the C.S.A. and in good faith intends to adhere to their course against the enemies of the C.S.A.

Given under my hand this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 1861  
L. B. Butler J.P.

Fairfax Court House  
Fairfax County, Virginia  
August 30<sup>th</sup> 1861

The services charged in this account were rendered as stated for the United States at the Harpers Ferry Armory in April 1861, which was then under my Superintendence. The amount is chargeable under the late Ordinance of the Virginia Convention to the State and approved for.

Alfred M. Barbour  
Late Superintendent

Richmond Virginia, 1861

Received of the State of Virginia forty one dollars and sixty cents (41.60) in full of the above account.  
Wm. H. Moore

**Camp near Manassas, September 11<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**38<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Volunteers**  
**Box #17, Folder 7, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Gov. Letcher, Sir:

Acting under an act passed by the convention, empowering the Cols. Of Regiment to appoint their Adjutants and Commissary. I have appointed Albert G. Smith my Adjutant & Wm. B. Edmonds my Commissary. I wish to have them if it meets your pleasure commissioned as such. I hope you will excuse me for troubling you, but it really seems so hard for the Virginia Officers to get anything done by the Confederate Officers, that we have determined not to trouble them, but look to the highest authority in our own state. We can't get Adjutants from the Lieutenants of companies because they are elected from favoritism and are perfectly ignorant.

Yours Obedient Servant  
C.C. Edmonds  
Col. 38<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.

**Warrenton, Va., September 24<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #18, Folder 1 Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Dear Col.

Your democrats have the desirable knack of securing comfortable positions; and I have a favour to ask at your hands in that line of practice.

B. H. Shackelford of this place was wounded in the battle of the 18<sup>th</sup> at Bull Run whilst fighting gallantly at the head of his company (he is captain of the Warrenton Rifles) his wound, though not dangerous, is quite serious, and although he has returned to his command, he will probably be discharged for laborious service and will have a relapse.

His friends are anxious to have him promoted, and as there are two or three vacancies in Majorities – I wish to get your influence to have him appointed Major in some of the regiments. There is a vacancy in (Gov.?) Smith's regiment which is composed of Fauquier and Culpepper companies. Captain Shackelford is known well to all this region and would be highly acceptable.

You are doubtless acquainted with Howard Shackelford. He is a man of note in this region of country and ranks foremost in publick confidence here. For intelligence, general information – integrity and courage he has no superiors. This appointment would meet universal approval.

I do not know how you can second my wishes; but any influence you can bring to bear in securing this appointment. Will be looked upon as an act of personal kindness to your early college friend.

A. Marshall

**Culpeper Court House, Va., October 28<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #18, Folder 7, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
His Excellency John Letcher, Governor

Dear Sir:

In the general prostration of all professional pursuits, and hoping too to contribute something to our cause, in a position where I may be most efficient. I have concluded to apply for a staff appointment in our army. I am told that there are places to be filled in the Commissary Department, & perhaps in the Quartermaster, Pay &c. Having been two years with an Army in Utah & somewhat observant of the details of its management, I think I can be serviceable in this way. With an assistant adjutant I had special occasion to know something; on account of our military complications in Utah.

Independent of an earnest desire to be engaged in the public service at this crisis, I am wholly now unemployed and have been, some time having relinquished connection with the press. You will pardon me for adding that all of my property (not much anyhow) is tied up by the war & myself and family at expense.

Some position affording a decent maintenance and bearing some relation to my capacity for usefulness would be most gratefully held by me. I have recently seen appointments made by you in our volunteer organization, & trust it may be in your power to give me something in the line suggested. In any event, I trust you may find it agreeable to procure for me one, should there be an opening in the Confederate Service proper. Should you have any other disposable appointment, to which I am suited, than those indicated, I would be glad of that. Anything rather than this state of inactivity I am in.

The uniform kindness and regard with which you have treated me and the valuable assistance given me heretofore with the late government, with my own feelings of the highest respect for you, in public and private must plead my apology for thus freely addressing you, amid the grave and pressing duties by which you are surrounded.

I returned from Manassas this morning. Everything was quite there, the theatre of interest having been transferred to the Upper Potomac. Reports conflict as to the extent of Col. McDonald's defeat at Romney; but the reverse was certainly serious.

Hoping favorably soon to hear from you. I am with the highest respect.

Charles E. Sinclair

**Salem Jail, Va., August 8<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Box #19, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**To the British Consul, Richmond, Virginia**

Sir,

I was apprehended, July 20<sup>th</sup> by part of a Cavalry Company under the command of General Wise. The general belongs to the Southern Confederacy. Since that time I have been in six jails; and there is some probability of being in the seventh before long. The cause of my apprehension and detention I know not, as I have never had a trial; and if there is any charge against me I could not obtain one here in justice to myself, as I am far removed from my friends and destitute of money. My object in addressing you, is to secure through you the protection guaranteed to every British subject. My claim to that protection rests on the following grounds. First I am an Irishman by birth. Second I have never been naturalized, never owned allegiance to any State in the Union, nor do I now. Third, I never belonged to any military organization either North or South. I claim therefore, as a subject of the British Government, the protection of that Government and trust that you will secure release as soon as possible.

Signed, Jeremiah Hare or Hand

N.B. – When being arrested they shot four times at me – took from me a horse, saddle and bridle.

J. H.

**Centreville, December 16<sup>th</sup> 1861**  
**Headquarters Loudoun Artillery**  
**Box #19, Folder 2, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

His Excellency, Governor Letcher

My Dear Sir,

Having no flag for my company and it being the first in the state to tender you its services for this war. I have the honor to apply for a Virginia Flag, which you will please order sent to me by my friend Major Fairfax,

I regret being absent from my Battery when you were at Centreville presenting flags for Virginia Troops.

Respectfully & truly

Your friend

Arth L. Rogers

Loudoun Artillery

**Near Manassas, January 20<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Winter Quarters, Va.**  
**Box #20, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To his Excellency Gov. Letcher

Sir, I notice in the Richmond Dispatch of Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> that the House of Delegates has passed a bill for the construction of a Rail Road connecting the Orange and Alexandria and Manassas Gap Railroads, with the Richmond Fredericksburg and Potomac Rail Road. Not knowing who is to be the chief Engineer for the location of this new road, and being unacquainted with the authorities controlling the management of the of the survey. I am under the necessity of troubling you with this communication.

I know not whether the Road under consideration is to be built by a civil or military board. If by the latter I should like to be detailed as assistant engineer to run a compass transit, level, or fill any other post in the surveying party. I have followed the profession of a civil engineer in Georgia for the last five years, and now experience a natural longing for the old business. I can produce any amount of credentials as to character and qualifications I am a member of Capt. A. S. Cutts' Battery from George and think that during the Winter at least, I can serve the country better by building Rail Roads demanded by military necessity than by lying idle in Winter Quarters. If you think this communication worth noticing, please hand it to the Board or Chief engineer having charge of the survey. My address is Manassas – Care of Capt. A. S. Cutts.

Very Respectfully,

J. D. Harris

**Manassas Junction, January 27<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment**  
**Box #20, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Hon. Gov. Letcher

Sir, At the request of many of my men I trouble you for a little information. Will a company formed of volunteers whose term of service expires on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April next be accepted to man the Batteries around Richmond?

Will a company so formed be accepted to man stationary batteries at any other point – if so will they be entitled to furlough &c under the act of convention provided they enlist for the war for two years? The men forming such a company are very desirous to engage in this branch of service and respectfully ask such information as you deem necessary.

My Address – Manassas Junction

13<sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.

Yours very respectfully

Wm. Wallace Bird

Lieut. Comm. Co. D. 13<sup>th</sup> Va.

From Headquarters 13<sup>th</sup> Va.  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 1862

To Capt. Chestney  
A A Genl. 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade

In reply to request from Brigade Head Quarters to furnish such information in relation to the condition & prospects of my regiments in reference to re-organization I respectfully state that the present term of service of four of my companies will expire on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the present month of another on the 19<sup>th</sup> & of three others on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The remaining company is for the war. The re-enlisted men of the regiment are all under the Confederate law & propose to go into other branches of service & other divisions of the Army if permitted. Not more than five percent intend to remain in the present regiments but only about 60 have re-organized themselves into a new company & elected officers; the rest have mostly enrolled their names in Artillery & Cavalry companies & scattered all over the "Confederate States" & continued that by the terms of the confederate law they have the right to do so. The re-organized company is for Artillery. If the re-enlisted men are not allowed to change their branch of service it will produce considerable dissatisfaction for a time at least. With a view to enable me to act advisedly in relation to the reorganization of my regiment I respectfully ask of the higher authorities, a speedy answer to the following inquiries.

1<sup>st</sup> Will the re-organized company be permitted to leave the regiment when their present term of service expires without an order authorizing them so to do from the Sec. of War.

2<sup>nd</sup> Will the re-enlisted men who have not re-organized into companies, be permitted to leave the regiment at the end of their present term to go in search of the companies they propose to attach themselves to & if not will they be permitted to form new companies after that time.

3<sup>rd</sup> If the re-enlisted men under the confederate law are kept in my regiment & joined with the drafted men from the state militia how are field officers to be elected, the confederate law allowing all the men to vote for field officers & the Va. Law ---- the company officers

4<sup>th</sup> What disposition is to be made of the men who refuse to re-enlist, will they be allowed to return to their homes, or are they to be retained until further orders.

I am very Respectfully  
James A. Walker  
Lt. Col. Commandant 13<sup>th</sup> Va.

Adgt. General's Office  
April 12<sup>th</sup> 1862

To His Excellency Gov. Letcher, Sir., You will please excuse a very report brief report on papers of Col. Gibbons.

First – Some measures should be promptly taken to correct the mischievous and disorganizing policy of the late Secretary of War in sending officers to enlist men from the Volunteer Force of the State into the Confederate Service; If it cannot be done otherwise, it is not competent for congress to remedy the evil and provide for leaving the Volunteers so enlisted, in the Volunteer Corps of the State. See especially the letter of the Commandant of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

Second – See the letter of Col. Gibbons 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment

If possible the elective principle should be banished from the Army – it is worse than a pestilence - May not Congress correct this also.

Altho it may be inconvenient - Yet it is of the utmost importance to have Col. Gibbons Regiment (the 10<sup>th</sup>) re-committed from the Valley. It is entirely composed of Valley men, & knowing them as well as you do – it is scarcely necessary to say that this measure would very much conduce to its harmony and efficiency – If the Regiment could be transferred to General Jackson's command, which is between their homes and the enemy, that also is every way desirable. The Regiment is now on the Rappahannock, a climate fatal in summer to men from the west. The Militia from the Valley are with him.

It is provided in the 7 Sect. act 10 February last, that the companies shall elect their officers when their terms of service expires – but many desire to elect sooner, that they may participate in the election of field officers. Being in the Confederate authorities authorize these elections whenever it is expedient to make them.

The whole subject is complicated by the conflicting laws of congress and our legislature – and nothing but the exercise of authority made indispensable by the exigencies of the case can disentangle it.

If General Lee can afford time for it. I respectfully recommend a conference with him, as the only chance so far as I can see of correcting the difficulty.

Very Respectfully Your Obedient Servant  
Wm. H. Richardson A.G.

**Richmond, Va. January 1862**

**Virginia Penitentiary**

**Box #20, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

We John Letcher, Governor of the State of Virginia, and Thomas Steers agree that the said Thomas Steers shall employ the following free negroes and slaves, who have been heretofore sentenced to the Penitentiary, to sale and transportation, on to labor on the Public Works of this State; to wit.

Ned Young sentenced by the County Court of Lunenburg County for 5 years from the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 1857 for Burglary &c. aged 22 years.

Robert Evans sentenced by the Hustings Court for the City of Petersburg for 15 years from the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 1854 for Housebreaking &c. aged 36 years.

Lewis Armstead sentenced by the County Court of Frederick County for 8 years from the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 1854 aged 37 years.

Mary Tines sentenced by the Hustings Court for the City of Norfolk for 5 years from the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1857 for Grand Larceny aged 18 years.

Napoleon sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Lynchburg to sale and transportation from the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 1858 for assault with intent to kill a white man aged 22 years.

Jim sentenced by the County Court of Prince William County to Sale and Transportation from the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 1859 aged 46 years.

David sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Richmond to Sale and Transportation from the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 1859 aged 22 years.

Spote alias Patrick Henry sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Lynchburg to Sale and Transportation from the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860 aged 20 years.

George sentenced by the County Court of Fluvanna County to Sale and Transportation from the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 1860 aged 35 years.

Spencer Gilbert sentenced by the Hustings Court for the City of Petersburg to Sale and Transportation from the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1859 aged 60 years.

John Red sentenced by the County Court of Amherst County to Sale and Transportation from the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1859 aged 28 years.

Ellen sentenced by the County Court of Rappahannock County to Sale and Transportation from the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1858 aged 20 years.

Bill Shepherd sentenced by the County Court of Fauquier County for 3 years from the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 1861 for Burglary aged 41 years.

Tapley sentenced by the County Court of Fairfax County to Sale and Transportation from the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 1861 for Poisoning aged 16 years.

Jim Scott sentenced by the County Court of Bath County for 2 years from the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1860 for Unlawful Stabbing aged 28 years.

Lee sentenced by the County Court of Amelia County to Sale and Transportation from the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1860 for Arson aged 27 years.

Oscar sentenced by the County Court of Loudoun County to Sale and Transportation from the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 1860 for Arson aged 19 years.

Sam sentenced by the County Court of Berkley County to Sale and Transportation from the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1860 for Attempt to Rape aged 18 years.

Lewis sentenced by the County Court of Albemarle County to Sale and Transportation from the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1861 for Burglary aged 25 years.

Charles Granger sentenced by the County Court of Henrico County for 8 years from the 21<sup>st</sup> September 1857 aged 40 years.

Benjamin Hargrove sentenced by the County Court of Surry County for 3 years from 27 September 1860 for Manslaughter aged 32 years

Carrol Minnis sentenced by the County Court of Charlotte County for 3 years from the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1859 for Larceny aged 20 years.

Frank Gwynn sentenced by the County Court of Henrico County for 10 years from the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1858 for Wounding a White Man aged 24 years.

Scott sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Richmond to Sale and Transportation from the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1859 aged 45 years.

Hannibal sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Williamsburg to Sale and Transportation from the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1860 aged 17 years.

Miles sentenced by the County Court of Henry County to Sale and Transportation from the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1859 aged 37 years.

Edmund sentenced by the County Court of Charles City County to Sale and Transportation from the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1859 aged 17 years

Ned sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Fredericksburg to Sale and Transportation from the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1859 aged 58 years.

Davy sentenced by the Hustings Court of the City of Lynchburg to Sale and Transportation from the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1858 aged 15 years.

Philip sentenced by the County Court of Madison County to Sale and Transportation from the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1860 aged 35 years.

Jim sentenced by the County Court of Culpeper County to Sale and Transportation from the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1859 aged 37 years.

Thomas Handy sentenced by the County Court of Accomac County for 5 years from the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1861 for Grand Larceny aged 22 years.

Ben sentenced by the County Court of King George County to Labor on the Public Works from the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1861 aged 16 years.

Jeff Booker sentenced by the County Court of Stafford County to Sale and Transportation from the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1861 aged 36 years.

Tully Iubiller sentenced by the County Court of Accomac County for 3 years from the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1860 for wounding &c. aged 20 years.

Jerry sentenced by the County Court of Sussex County to Sale and Transportation from the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1860 aged 56 years.

Anthony Pritchell sentenced by the Hustings Court for the City of Petersburg for 3 years from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1861 for Horse Stealing aged 21 years.

Edward Seldon sentenced by the Hustings Court for the City of Lynchburg for 1 year 6 months from the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1861 for Grand Larceny aged 24 years.

Tony Vaughn sentenced by the County Court of Buckingham County for 5 years from the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1861 aged 18 years.

Peter sentenced by the County Court of Gloucester County to Sale and Transportation from the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1861 aged 36 years.

William sentenced by the County Court of Prince Edward County to sale and Transportation from the 28<sup>th</sup> December 1861 for Murder in the Second degree aged 35 years.

Sam sentenced by the County Court of Nottoway County to Sale and Transportation from 8<sup>th</sup> April 1861 aged 27 years.

Jim Sample sentenced by the County Court of Accomac for 5 years from the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1861 for Burglary aged 25 years

Fanny Peters sentenced by the County Court of Rockingham County for 7 years 4 months & 2 days from 7<sup>th</sup> June 1859 for Arson aged 17 years.

Ann Weaver sentenced by the County Court of Southampton County for 3 years from the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1861 for Arson aged 18 years.

Rose sentenced by the County Court of Campbell County to Sale and Transportation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1859 for Murder aged 23 years.

Alberta sentenced by the County Court of Madison County to Sale and Transportation from the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1859 for Arson aged 14 years.

Malinda sentenced by the County Court of Caroline County to Sale and Transportation from the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1861 for Arson aged 20 years.

James Brown sentenced by the County Court of Prince George County for 2 years from the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1861 for Grand Larceny aged 36 years.

The said Thomas Steers having had possession of the following named convicts named in the foregoing list: to wit: Ned Young, Robert Evans, Lewis Armstead, Napoleon, Jim, David, Spote alias Patrick Henry, George, Spencer Gilbert, John Red, Bill Shepherd, Tapley, Jim Scott, Lee, Oscar, Sam, Lewis, Charles Granger, Ben Hargrave, Mary Tines and Ellen since the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January last; is to have full possession of the remainder of said negro convicts as soon hereafter as they can be removed from the Penitentiary, and may employ them on such work connected with the manufacture of iron or salt or both of them as to him shall seem proper, and in conformity to an Act of the General assembly passed December 7<sup>th</sup> 1861 providing for the hire out of the Negro convicts confined in the Penitentiary, for such purpose, and according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Governor, for and in consideration of the sum of four thousand three hundred and fifty dollars: to wit Ned Young, Robert Evans, Lewis Armistead, Jim of Prince Edward, David , Spote alias Patrick Henry, George, Spencer Gilbert, John Red, Bill Shepherd, Tapley, Jim, Scott, Lee, Oscar, Sam, Lewis, Charles Granger, Ben Hargrave, Carrol Minnis, frank Gwynn, Scott, Hannibal, Miles, Edmund, Philip, Jim, Thomas Handy, Jeff Booker, Tully Iubille, Jerry, Pritchett, Ed Sheldon, Tony Vaughn, Peter, William, James Brown, and Sam at the rate of one hundred dollars each, hire until the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1862 and the said Mary Tines, Ellen, Fanny Peters, Ann Weaver, Rose, Alberta Malinda, Ned, Davy, Ben and Jim Sample, at the rate of Fifty Dollars each until the said 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1862.

The said sum of Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars being the hire of all the said convicts, to be paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1863.

And where the term of confinement expires before the termination of the hiring, or return of the said prisoners to the Penitentiary, the said Thomas Steers shall previously notify the Governor in order that the proper order shall be made in time for the discharge of the convicts: but the said Thomas Steers shall in no case discharge a prisoner on his own responsibility or order; and in cases where the term of the hiring expires before the time of imprisonment the said Thomas Steers shall return the said convicts, or transfer them as required by the Governor, at the cost of the said Thomas Steers according to law and the regulations aforesaid. In every case of the discharge or death of a convict, the hire shall be abated from the time of such discharge or death. And the said Thomas Steers shall also be required to return to the Penitentiary all the manacles chains &c. which he may take with the prisoners when they are discharged. In testimony whereof we have here to set our hands and seals this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 1862.

Teste, John Letcher (SEAL)

Thos. Steers (SEAL)

**Manassas, Va. January 29<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Cav. , Camp G. W. Smith, Manassas**  
**Box #20, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
Governor Letcher

Dear Sir,

The call of the State of Virginia to the Volunteers is before this Regt. for response. Respectfully ask whether the companies now in the field will be allowed to re-organize or more planning to elect new officers if they wish to do so also what will be the probable result of their deliberation of the assembly as regards the changing from one arm of the service to another whether individuals can re-enlist in Cavalry who have served in infantry and

whether men will be allowed to any time for vacation and in what may & have heard no one speak against enlisting for the rear and believe that if the volunteers be allowed to re-organize or can have a small vacation before the spring campaign opens will cheerfully enlist. I for one never to expect or wish to shun the service as long as a Yankee treads the confederate soil. Excuse me sir for his troubling you but you are my chief magistrate I know of no one to whom I would apply for answers to the above question to yourself of all kinds of subjugation save me from that caused by my native state to hear from you soon. I am your obedient servant,

Lt. B. Wigginton

**Moore's Hospital Manassas Junction, February 17<sup>th</sup> 1862**

**Box #20, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Governor Letcher

Dear Sir,

I know that at this particular time you are busily engaged with the affairs of State and have no time to spare. I will try & be brief.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April last, my-self and Company entered our Services to you, to repel the invading enemy. I left my business, my wife and a widowed mother with six children all dependent upon me. I am executor on my father's estate. At the time of his death, him & my-self were doing business together, and he willed that the business should continue, but in consequence of my leaving home the business was closed. Our accounts are all standing open, and of course we must sustain great loss. Now I am called upon to re-enlist, and I would gladly respond, but what is to become of my business. I am held responsible for all that belongs to the estate. That is my sureties are bound. I am not one of that class alluded to by the edition of the examiner. I do not urge the plea that I have served my term. I think that all should go particular the volunteer. I would be glad if I had 90 days to attend to my business, please give me some advice on the subject. Pardon me for trespassing upon your time. I am young and have no father to go to for advice, and I know no other more capable of giving it than your-self. Awaiting your reply I remain your most obedient servant.

W. C. Davis

Co F 18<sup>th</sup> Reg. Va. Vols

Direct to Moore's hospital Manassas Junction

(Answer to letter – He must decide between his own excuses and the call of his Country)

**Brentsville, Prince William County, December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1861**

**Box #19, Folder 2, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Hon. John Letcher, Governor of Virginia

Sir,

In the discharge of my official duty, I have to inform you that one John W. Park, a white man, charged with feloniously stealing two boxes of shoes of the value of one hundred dollars, the property of E. B. Stuart, committed to jail of this county on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1861 by L. B. Butler, a justice of the peace – also on John Wood, a white man charged with the murder of one William Tillett a white man, committed to the jail of this county on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1861 by L. B. Butler a justice of the peace, did forcibly break and escape from said jail in the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1861, and I have not been able to arrest or find them.

Said Park is about five feet ten inches high, rather dark complexion, about twenty five or twenty eight years of age and slender person – And said Wood is about five feet ten inches high, very stoutly made, dark complexion and about twenty five years of age – and both of them are presumed in the Army of the Confederate States.

William E. Goodwin

Sheriff of Prince William County

Answer by John Letcher on the back side of the above letter

Escaped from Prince William jail, John W. Park charged with larceny, and John Wood charged with murder. – Offer a reward of fifty dollars for the first named & \$100 for the last named.

J. L.

Dec. 26, 1861

**Camp near Centreville, January 27<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.**  
**Box #20, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Honored Sir,

In times like the present, true patriots are willing to endure hardship & privations, influenced by no other motive than love of freedom & hatred to Yankee despotism. We were introduced to their acts of preservation on Manassas field, and more recently paid them our respects at Leesburg on the 21<sup>st</sup> October. You know Sir of the gallant display of heroism and bravery of the 8<sup>th</sup> on that memorable day. Many of their homes were within a few miles of that place in which wives children and all dear in life or which their hearts affections are centered, were protected, and if beaten back, oh what honor would be visited on them, hence with what tenacity they clung to their position, and succeeded in driving back the dastard foe.

A few, nay, many of those same veterans, who are anxious to be engaged in their Country's Service. Yet to by twelve months absence, render a proximity to home almost a necessity, on account of the helplessness of their families. Are willing to voluntarily to enlist for the war provided they be allowed to do service in Loudoun County, on the border. There is now in Loudoun a company of Richmond artillery. And if in your honors opinion we can be provided with like arms, artillery, yet if not prudent to give us artillery we will accept any arm of the service so as to locate near Leesburg. I will proceed at once to organize and officially inform you of the facts.

I am with the greatest respect your most obedient servant

W. E. Garrett  
Company I, 8<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.

N. S. not being familiar with military law, I have addressed this to you, if however it now properly belongs to the Secretary of War I trust you will forward the request to him. And to arrange it that our company may at once be organized with that understanding, for in it, beats many true hearts for the Southern Cause, which will otherwise be exempt from necessity. And I'll warrant we will cling to that position with ever greater tenacity than the noble 8<sup>th</sup> did, when attacked by the Vandal foe. And defend our sacred homes as well the border from their foul invasion.

With great respect &c.  
W. E. Garrett

Please attend to this as soon as practicable.

**Camp Walker, Manassas Junction, January 29<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Company D 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Inf.**  
**Box #20, Folder 5, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
To His Excellency John Letcher, Governor of Virginia

Dear Sir,

I have read in the Richmond papers, that troops are desired to man the fortifications of Richmond. I have been in the service of the Confederate States since April court, & desire to remain in the service; but my health has become so impaired that I am compelled to either to seek service in some other department, or claim a discharge. The latter I am unwilling to do. I request that you give me a place in one of the Batteries about Richmond, if you can do it.

I can refer to the Col. of my Regiment, Col. gibbons, or any of the citizens of Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, of which I am a native resident.

My time of service will expire on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, next, at which time I will be ready to enter into any other duty assignment.

Hoping to receive a reply as soon as possible, I am, sir,  
Very respectfully your obedient servant  
Wm. S. Rohr

Address:  
Wm. S. Rohr  
Co. G. 10<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.  
Comm of Col. C. B. Gibbons  
Manassas Junction, Va.

**Manassas Junction, February 10<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regt.**  
**Box #20, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
To His Excellency John Letcher, Governor of Virginia

Dear Sir,

I wish to know if I can procure arms for a Cavalry Company, should I raise one, as State Troops, for one year, or two years, or for the war, I am not particular which. I am understood that the Confederate Government will not receive Cavalry unless they are armed with at least one kind of arms let me know at your earliest convenience as I wish to raise the Company immediately if I can get them armed.

Yours Respectfully  
Thos. J. Pennybacker  
10<sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.

**Camp Walker, Manassas Junction, February 16<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Company D 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Inf.**  
**Box #20, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
To His Excellency John Letcher, Governor of Virginia

Dear Sir,

Prior to the Act of Assembly lately passed for raising Virginia's quota of troops, the volunteers who had enlisted under the Act of Congress had very generally commenced associating with a view to Company Organization. Often with a view to change into another arm of the service – as infantry into artillery, and the like. A difficulty arises as to the effect of the Act of Assembly upon such proposed organizations. For instance – there are two companies in a regiment from each of which 35 men re-enlist under the Act of Congress – and these men propose to associate and form a new company – will this be permitted – or will the men who have re-enlisted, or shall re-enlist be required to remain in their old companies as skeletons to be filled by draft under the Virginia Act. All who re-enlist will probably do so under the Act of Congress for the sake of the “bounty and furlough”. The residue will stand a draft. The Act of Congress, and the regulations of the Sec. of War thereupon seem clearly to contemplate, and indeed require the re-enlisted men to organize themselves into companies and regiments before their present term of service expires. Is there any conflict between this Act and these regulations, and the Virginia laws. And if so, which prevails. Under the Act of Congress the re-enlisted men seem to have the right to select their companies & then voluntarily to associate into battalions or regiments. The Virginia Act proposes to preserve the old company organizations by supplying the place of those who fail to re-enlist by a draft. If those who re-enlist under the Law of Congress can leave their old companies, in many cases no skeleton will be left. It is of importance to those who propose to organize companies to know what are the rights of those who have re-enlisted. I have taken the liberty therefore to address you on the subject, and will gratefully accept any information you may cause to be given me. My address is “Manassas Station.”

With much respect  
Frank V. Winston  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Co. D. 13<sup>th</sup> Va. Inf.

**Camp Walker, Manassas Junction, February 12<sup>nd</sup> 1862**  
**Company D 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Inf.**  
**Box #20, Folder 7, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
To His Excellency Gov. Letcher

Your Excellency will please inform me whether the infantry, of the present twelve months volunteers, is at liberty, according to the Act which has lately been enacted, to re-enlist in any other branch of the service. There is much doubt and contrariety of opinion on the subject among the officers, and nothing definitive or satisfactory can

be gained from them. Some of them say we can, under the present law, join artillery or cavalry, others say not. By answering this, and cleansing of doubt connected with the subject, you will greatly oblige me, with many others.

Respectfully,  
Your obedient servant  
J. W. Valentine  
Company D, 13<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Volunteers  
Manassas

**Camp Walker, Manassas Junction, March 6<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Camp A. 10<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.**  
**Box #21, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Gov. Letcher, Sir:

I take the pains to write to you for information in regard to reiterating I have served in 10 Regt. Va. Vols the past year, and now I wish to join the 33 Va. For good reasons. Some say I cannot leave the Regt. I now serve in. Others say I can reenlist in any regiment I prefer hoping I will receive the above information required. I will close yours very respectfully.

George M. Spengler  
Manassas Junction  
Camp A 10<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va Vol

Please answer as early as possible

**The Plains, Fauquier County, March 8<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Camp A. 10<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.**  
**Box #21, Folder 2, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Hon. John Letcher

Dear Sir,

Having been a citizen of the District of Columbia for the last three years and when the enrolment of the district militia took place was compelled to take the oath of allegiance to the federal government. Two weeks after the battle at Bull Run I succeeded in making my escape to Virginia fearing I would be compelled to take up arms against my native state. I now come under the militia law of this state and have been ordered to enroll my name in the service by adjutant Howard Gibson of this district, not knowing how to act in this case I would be glad to have your instructions. While in Washington I was engaged in mercantile business – please address myself pr adjutant H. Gibson on the subject at your earliest convenience. I have the honor to be your

Most obedient servant &c  
Philip A. Tracy

**Richmond Virginia Penitentiary 1862**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia vs William J. Sinclair**  
**Pardon request rejected**  
**Box #22, Folder 2, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Pleas at the Court House of Prince County before the Circuit Court of said County. On Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight. Be it remembered that heretofore to wit: at a Circuit Court held for the said County on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 1856, George Weedon foreman, Hector Kincheloe, Burr Glascock, William F. Hodgkin, Austin B. Weedon, Christopher Windsor, Samuel Toth, James Maddox, George A. Cannon, Thomas Jones, John Fair, Thompson Fairfax, Alexander Pearson, Benson Davis, Hampton Brenton and Benjamin Johnson were sworn a grand jury of inquest for the body of this County and having received

their charge, withdrew and after some time returned into court and presented an "Indictment against William J. Sinclair for Murder "a true bill" which Indictment is in the words following to wit:

Ninth Judicial Circuit

Prince William County

In the Circuit Court of said County, the jurors of the Commonwealth of Virginia in and for the body of the County of Prince William and now attending the said Court upon their oaths present that William J. Sinclair in the thirtieth day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty five with force and arms in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of the said Court in and upon the body of one James Hewitt in the Peace of God and the said Commonwealth then and there being feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought, did make an assault; and that the said William J. Sinclair a certain gun, called a rifle of the value of ten dollars, then and there charged with gun powder and one leaded bullet which said rifle, he the said William J. Sinclair in both his hands then and there had and held, then and there feloniously, willfully, and of his malice aforethought did discharge and shoot off to against and upon the said James Hewitt, and that the said William J. Sinclair, with the leaden bullet aforesaid, out of the rifle aforesaid then and there by the force of the gunpowder aforesaid by the said William J. Sinclair discharged and shot off as aforesaid, then and there feloniously, willfully, and of his malice aforethought did strike, penetrate and wound the said James Hewitt, in and upon the right side of the body of him the said James Hewitt, giving to him the said James Hewitt, then and there, with the leaden bullet aforesaid as aforesaid discharged and shot out of the rifle aforesaid, by the said William J. Sinclair in and upon the right side of the body of him the said James Hewitt, one mortal wound; of which said mortal wound he the said James Hewitt from the said thirteenth day of January in the year aforesaid, to the thirty-first day of January in the year aforesaid, in the County aforesaid did languish and languishing did live; An which said thirty first day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty five aforesaid the said James Hewitt, in the County aforesaid of the said mortal wound died. And so the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say, that the said William J. Sinclair, the said James Hewitt in the manner and form and by the means aforesaid feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought, did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Upon the evidence of William Corum of Fauquier County, William Hewitt, H. F. Triplett and Alexander Jeffries of Prince William County, sworn to give evidence to the Grand Jury by the Court.

Eppa Hunton

Attorney for Court in said County

And at another day to Wit: at a Circuit Court held for said County on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month last mentioned in the year 1856. William J. Sinclair late of the County of Prince William, who stands indicted of murder was led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of this Court, thereof arraigned and pleaded Not Guilty to the indictment whereupon on the petition of the said William J. Sinclair, and for reasons appearing to the Court, his trial is postponed until the next term, and the said William J. Sinclair is remanded to jail.

And at another day to wit: At a Circuit Court held for said County on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 1857 William J. Sinclair late of the County of Prince William, who stands indicted of murder was again led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of this Court and the Jury sworn yesterday for his trial were brought into court by the sheriff of this county, and having fully heard the evidence, upon their oaths do say that the said William J. Sinclair is guilty of murder in the first degree in man and form, as in the Indictment against him as alleged, and the said William J. Sinclair is remanded to Jail.

And at another day to wit: at a circuit court held for said county on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1857 William J. Sinclair late of the County of Prince William against whom the jury has rendered a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree was again led to the bar in custody of the Sheriff of this County and submitted a motion to set the said verdict aside and grant him a new trial, and the court not being yet advised what opinion to give, doth take time to consider thereof, and the said William J. Sinclair is remanded to jail. And at another day to wit: at a Circuit Court held for the said County on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 1857 William J. Sinclair late of the County of Prince William, against whom the jury has rendered a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree, was again led to the bar in custody of the Sheriff of this County, and the Court having maturely considered the motion for a new trial, it is for reasons appearing to the court, ordered that the verdict of the jury be set aside and that a new trial be had upon the Indictment aforesaid and thereupon the said William J. Sinclair is remanded to jail. And at another day, to wit, at a Circuit Court held for the said County, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 1857. William J. Sinclair late of the County of Prince William who stands indicted of murder, and to whom a new trial was awarded at the last court, was again led to the bar in custody of the Sheriff of this County, whereupon on the motion of the said William J. Sinclair and for reasons appearing to the court his trial is continued until the next term, and the said William J. Sinclair is remanded to Jail. And another day to wit: at a Circuit Court held for the said County on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1858 William J. Sinclair late of Prince William, who stands indicted of murder, was led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of this

Court, whereupon came a Jury to Wit: Thomas R. Newman, James W. Davis, Robert F. Stonnell, William Long, George A. Bowling, Zebulon Sullivan, John C. Parker, Joseph Creel, William F. Davis, Isaac W. Davis, George Davis & Joseph Brown, who being elected, tried and sworn the truth of and upon the premises to speak and having partly heard the evidence, were with the consent of the prisoner committed to the custody of the sheriff of this county, who is directed to keep them together without communication with any other person and to cause them to appear here tomorrow morning at nine o'clock; whereupon an oath was administered to Thomas K. Davis sheriff of this county, to the following effect. " You shall well and truly, to the best of your ability, keep this jury, and neither speak to them yourself, nor suffer any other person to speak to them touching any matter relative to this trial until they return into court tomorrow "And the said William J. Sinclair is remanded to Jail.

And now at this day to Wit: At a Circuit Court held for the said County, on the same day and year first herein mentioned to wit: on the 11<sup>th</sup> day and year first herein mentioned to wit: on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 1858, William J. Sinclair late of Prince William County, who stands indicted of murder, was again led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of this Court and the Jury sworn yesterday for his trial were brought into court by the Sheriff of this County, and having fully heard the evidence, upon their oath do say, that the said William J. Sinclair is guilty of Murder in the Second degree, and do ascertain the term of his imprisonment in the Public Jail and Penitentiary house to be five years; and thereupon it being demanded of him if anything for himself he had or knew to say, why the court here should not now proceed to pronounce judgment against him according to law, and with nothing being offered or alleged in delay of judgment, it is considered by the court, that the said William J. Sinclair be imprisoned in the Public Jail and Penitentiary house of this Commonwealth, for the term of five years the period by the jurors in their verdict ascertained.

And it is ordered that the Sheriff of Prince William County do, as soon as possible after the adjournment of this court, remove and safely convey the said William J. Sinclair from the Jail of this County to the said Public Jail and Penitentiary house therein to be kept imprisoned and treated in the manner directed by law. And the court doth certify that on the trial of the said William J. Sinclair nothing appeared to the court either in aggravation or extenuating of the offence of the said William J. Sinclair nor did it appear that before the commission of the said offence he was of bad or good character or that he had ever been convicted or tried for any felony or other infamous crime, and thereupon, the said William J. Sinclair is remanded to Jail.

#### Commonwealth vs Sinclair – Upon examination William Corum for Commonwealth

I the deceased, his son & the prisoner were at the Store of Mr. Triplett in Prince William County – the deceased called for half pint of liquor – the deceased his son & myself drank it – we had been there about half an hour – the deceased called for another half pint, first as the liquor was set out, the prisoner came in the, the deceased said to the prisoner won't you take something to drink – the prisoner drank with the deceased, in a very short time the prisoner said he had no money, told Triplett he had a rabbit he had shot with his rifle, for which Mr. Triplett gave him half pint of whiskey, the prisoner, the deceased, young Hewitt & myself drank it in about an hour by my estimation. Mr. Triplett said his feet were cold & he went to dinner, we walked out & Triplett locked the door. The prisoner, the deceased, young Hewitt & myself started home. The prisoner commenced projecting with his rifle with young Hewitt. The prisoner pointed his rifle at young Hewitt seemingly in play. Hewitt caught hold of his rifle & shoved it away. I think the rifle was not cocked – in this time the prisoner had advanced 5 or 6 steps from young Hewitt, the deceased exclaimed Mr. Sinclair I hope you are not going to shoot anyone hear. The prisoner exclaimed, yes dam you I'll shoot you – with that he fired the contents of his rifle into his body a little on the right side. The prisoner was between 5 & 6 steps from the deceased when he fired. The prisoner then threw the butt of his rifle on the ground and commenced loading it. I then hollered for a (word not legible). Seeing what he had done I advanced upon him and he caught up his rifle by the barrel & said to me dam you stand back or I'll kill you. He then started in a pretty swift run with his rifle in his hands. I pursued him some 15 or 20 steps by my estimation – saw I could not apprehend him – went back to see the deceased – I found him lying on his face in the snow just as I got there Mr. Triplett came up & a few seconds after Mr. Jeffries came up. Young Hewitt from the time he let go the prisoner's rifle up to the fire was standing back some three or four steps. The deceased was entirely unarmed as was the above company (word?) except the prisoner. The deceased lived about 24 hours from the time he was shot.

Wm. W. Corum

#### William Hewitt for Commonwealth

Mr. Corum, my father, (the deceased) and myself started out hunting, we went down to Mr. Triplett in a short time after we got there the prisoner came, we took something to drink after we got there in about half hour after that we all came out and I started home – When I got along Mr. Jeffries I turned and went back, when I walked up the prisoner allowed he had as good a friend as anybody else there (meaning his rifle) he took it up and cocked it

and pointed it at me. I took hold of it – I followed him back about 10 steps holding on to the rifle – The prisoner told me to let go his rifle he did not intend to shoot anybody – He let the cock down – I let go the rifle & he set the back on the ground – After I let go the rifle I turned to go to the spring I heard somebody - I took to be the prisoner say stand back and that is all I know about it. Just then the prisoner fired his rifle and I turned back and found my father was shot – when I first saw him after he was shot he was standing – when I turned around the prisoner was loading his rifle and he said I have killed one dammed rascal and I am going to kill another before I leave here. Mr. Corum & myself ran up to try to get him – we pursued him about 15 steps – he jumped the fence and we came back & when we came back the deceased had fallen – this was the 31<sup>st</sup> January I think of last year – My father lived about 24 hours after he was shot – The ball from the rifle entered the right side. My father was unarmed – when I turned to go to the spring the prisoner was about 10 steps from the deceased. And when I turned back after the fire the deceased was in the same place and had not advanced on the prisoner.

#### Cross Examined

Mr. Jeffries is between three and four hundred yards from Triplett's – don't know what induced me to turn back – found them in or about the same place talking friendly – we had a small bull dog there belonging to my father – did not hear my father say he would make the dog seize the prisoner, did not hear Corum say it – did not hear Corum say he was armed – my father had no club or stick in his hand nor had Corum or myself – The first time I heard the prisoner say stand back was when I turned to the spring – he said so I think some three or four times – don't recollect that he said stand back or ill shoot you – don't know to whom he said it. I was about same distance they were off – I was in sight of the parties but had my back turned – when I turned round father was nearest to prisoner. Corum farthest off – my father was I think 10 steps off. The snow was two inches deep – it might have been more – the dog followed me up to Jeffries when I first started – Mr. Jeffries came in a very short time after father was shot I did not hear father say anything to prisoner after I came back more than friendly talk – don't recollect hearing father say don't shoot me – the shooting took place about half or three quarters of an hour by the sun I suppose it was two hours or two & a half before the shooting that Triplett said he must go to dinner while I was holding the prisoners rifle he backs and followed him up – did not then turn him around.

I was duly sober, had taken two small drinks out of what was brought. My father was not drunk but felt what he drank. Corum was sober, but may have felt his liquor. The prisoner was sober. We all drank a pint or a pint and a half before Triplett left. We were near an hour in drinking it – Corum, my father & myself had drunk nothing before getting to Triplett's – it was on Tuesday – I shall be 23 next May.

William (his mark) Hewitt

#### Haywood Triplett for Commonwealth

It was on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1855 that Mr. Corum the deceased, & Wm. Hewitt called at my store house in Prince William County and called me down from the house and asked if I had anything to drink – if so to let them have some – I drew them sum in a pint cup (nearly half pint) They had been there about fifteen minutes when the prisoner came in – He had his rifle with him and a rabbit – they invited him to drink with them & he did so, their conversation then turned upon their hunt & the game they had seen, the prisoner was then invited by either the deceased or Mr. Corum to treat, he said if I would take his rabbit he would treat – he had no money. I took the rabbit and treated the company. Mr. Corum asked what I gave for rabbits, my reply was, I was not in the habit of buying – either the deceased or Corum asked the use of prisoner's gun to shoot at a mark. I think for a treat as soon as they had shot they returned to the store and called for ½ pint and it was set out – I began to get tired and asked them to leave the store. I wanted to go to dinner and was cold – the deceased was at first disinclined to go and I asked the prisoner and Corum to lead him out – they did so and I locked the door and went to the dwelling house about fifty yards from the store. I had been there some time I took no note how long. I heard some talking in the direction of store and told some of my family to look and see who was there – the reply was the men had not left yet alluding to those I had left there. They said they were standing near the spring house which faces the store house door and within a few yards of the store house. I had been in the house perhaps an hour and a half. I won't say positively. I rose and made a step towards the window to see whether they had gone at that moment I heard a report of a gun. I looked out of the window & saw Mr. Sinclair who was holding his gun to his shoulder as if he had just fired it take it down. I saw nothing in view at that moment but the prisoner & his gun. Some of my children came running in and said the prisoner had shot Mr. Hewitt. I immediately went out into the yard and looked in the direction where I had first saw the prisoner with his gun up and saw the prisoner was retreating from the shot and young Hewitt & Corum advancing upon him. Corum was in advance of Hewitt calling out murderer – stop the murderer – I stood in amazement a few minutes supposing they were enacting a farce to induce me to come down, or trick often used in the mountains for that purpose. When the prisoner got in front of my house about 50 yards from the store. Mr. Corum put his hand behind him and remarked if you do not stop I will shoot as if he was going to draw a pistol but

did not present any. The prisoner then started in a run and Corum & Hewitt returned to the deceased. Hewitt was not dangerous and kept in the background. Hewitt who had fallen – I run down to his assistance and Corum and Jeffries or Wm. Hewitt assisted me in taking him into the store house. I sent Wm. Hewitt to Mr. Harrison the nearest justice. A physician Dr. Miller was sent for. The ball entered the deceased on the right side under the nipple to the best of my knowledge. He lived about 24 hours from the time he was shot which was about hour or ¾ of an hour by the sun. On Tuesday I think the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1855 – the deceased was lying about ten feet from the place where I saw the prisoner standing with his gun up to his face – it might have been more – the ball lodged in the body of deceased.

#### Cross Examined

Heard no noise that I recollect now which induced me first to look out of window. I had heard no noise or quarreling of any kind up to that time. I did not see any of the party from the time I went to the house until I saw the prisoner with his gun up – at this time the prisoner was back of the store house – From my window I can see the front & back and one side (the other side) of the store house. The route the prisoner was retreating was his nearest way home. The deceased was somewhat crippled and walked with a cane. They had a bull dog with them. Saw no club or cane in the hands of any of them, only judged the deceased had a cane because he usually walked with one – the deceased did not abuse me, but made use of a black guard remark to me. He was a helpless old man. The deceased was not drunk but felt his liquor and when in liquor he is noisy & boisterous. The prisoner was not drunk by any means. I should judge the prisoner was sober. The other two were sober I think. Mr. Jeffries got to the deceased near about the time I did. There might have been several persons there that came after the shooting but don't recollect certainly. The family of the deceased came that night – when I got on the ground I asked Corum what made prisoner shoot deceased he said he did not know. I then asked Wm. Hewitt, who said all he knew about it was they were talking something about character. I asked the old man and he said he could not tell – the old man said to Corum you have been the cause of this and Corum said James don't say that you will hang me, the impression on my mind was that Corum had invited Hewitt out to hunt and that caused it. I went on and heard no more.

Haywood F. Triplett

#### Alexander Jeffries for the Commonwealth

Don't recollect the dates on the evening that deceased was shot. I went out as usual to get my wood. I heard some talking down at Mr. Triplett's. I stood a very little time before I heard prisoner say stand back or I'll shoot you and then heard report of gun and then I turned round and said to my wife somebody is shot at Triplett's. Very soon I saw Mr. Corum & Wm. Hewitt had followed the prisoner up to triplet's barn. I thought they were about to overhaul him – were close to him – he caught his rifle by the barrel and drew it back as if he was going to strike – Mr. Corum & Hewitt returned to deceased I suppose. The prisoner got over Triplett's fence & fell. I never saw him any more until I saw him at the examination before a justice at Brentsville. I went down as fast as I could to Triplett's and helped the deceased in the store house.

#### Cross Examined

Had heard loud talking but did not appear to be quarreling or anything of that kind. The deceased was lying about half way between the store house and the barn. When the prisoner was hunting he generally went by the barn in going home. My house is not over two hundred yards from Triplett's store. Can hear Triplett talking in his ordinary voice. Saw nothing of dog. Prisoner said stand back twice – he might have said it oftener. The ball entered the right side cutting the lowest rib.

Alex (his mark) Jeffries

#### **Richmond, Va. June 1862**

#### **Virginia Penitentiary list of prisoners (partial)**

**Box #23, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**

#### **Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

John A. Blevins, 18 December 1848, sentenced at Richmond City, to 15 years for a third offence for carrying off slaves, born in Hawkins County, Tennessee, age 53 years, 5 ft. 6 ½ inches high without shoes, white complexion, sallow color hair, blue eyes

James H. Ames, 22 November 1854, sentenced to 18 years, in Accomack County for murder in the second degree, born Virginia, age 21 years, 5 foot 7 inches tall without shoes, white complexion, sandy hair and blue eyes.

Andrew J. Parsons, 29 April 1855, sentenced to 3, 5, and 8 years in Cabell County for store breaking, born Cabell County, Virginia, 5 foot 9 ½ inches high without shoes, age 24 years, white complexion, sandy hair, and hazel eyes.

John Varenberg, 18 March 1855, sentenced to 18 years in Harrison County for murder in the second degree, born in the country of Belgium, 5 foot 8 ½ inches high without shoes, age 52 years, white complexion, brown hair and blue eyes.

William H. Ewell, 6 June 1855, sentenced to 9 years in Princess Ann County for murder in the second degree, born Princess Ann County, age 46 years, 5 foot 9 ½ inches high without shoes, white complexion, dark hair and blue eyes.

Robert D. Dickey, 21 June 1855, sentenced to 18 years in Fairfax County for murder in the second degree, born Halifax County, aged 31 years, 5 foot 5 inches high without shoes, white complexion, light hair and blue eyes.

John E. Watkins, 13 September 1855, sentenced to 10 years in Goochland County for second degree murder, born in Goochland County, age 44 years, 5 foot 9 ½ inches high without shoes, white complexion, light hair and blue eyes, feeble condition.

James A. Wilson, 23 October 1855, sentenced to 18 years in Loudoun County for second degree murder, born in Fauquier County, age 35 years, 5 foot 9 ½ inches high without shoes, fair complexion, brown hair and black/gray eyes, feeble condition.

Henry Abbott aka B. Handlin, 20 October 1856, sentenced to 15 years in Richmond City for grand larceny, born in lower Canada, age 24 years, 5 foot 5 inches high without shoes, fair complexion, black hair and grey eyes.

Benjamin Hughes, 10 October 1856, sentenced to 8 years in Halifax County for murder in the second degree, born Halifax County, age 52 years, 5 foot 9 ½ years old, white complexion, dark hair and black eyes.

George Johnson, 14 April 1857, sentenced to 6 years in Richmond City for stealing a slave, born King George County, aged 47 years, 5 foot 9 ½ inches high without shoes, light complexion, and blue eyes.

William S. Sinclair, 10 June 1858, sentenced to 5 years for murder in the second degree in Prince William County, born Fauquier County, aged 35 years, 5 foot 9 ½ inches high without shoes, cinnamon complexion, dark hair and blue eyes

**Mississippi Depot, Manassas, Va., November 1861**  
**File marked 29 October 1862 (misfiled)**  
**Box #23, Folder 3, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**Mississippi Depot,**  
**Richmond, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

To the Editors of the Examiner:

I beg leave to call your attention to the following note, just received from the Chief Clerk of the Mississippi Depot, at Manassas. Is there no remedy for these outrages and robberies? I have employed agents to accompany the cars in many instances, but what can one man do on a wearisome trip, in rain and darkness and hunger, by night and day, in watching for organized band of railroad thieves. Neither mercy nor pains have been withheld in attempting to convey the generous contributions of the Mississippians to the soldiers on the Potomac, but you see with what result. Nor are our goods the exception. Every State represented, and everybody meet, engaged in a task like mine, have similar complaints. What are we to do?

Respectfully,

C. K. Marshall

Mississippi Depot  
Manassas, Va., November 11<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dr. C. K. Marshall, Richmond

Dear Sir: Is there no possible plan that can be devised to prevent the goods that you ship from Richmond for this depot being stolen. Not a single car comes here without bundles or boxes broken open and pillaged of all or part of the contents.

Very Respectfully,  
E. E. Armstrong

**Richmond, Va. 21 November 1862**  
**Engineer & Pay Office March 6<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**14 Law Building, Franklin Street**  
**Counties delinquent in furnishing their quota of Slaves and requesting the law be enforced**  
**Box #21, Folder 1, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

To His Excellency John Letcher, Governor of Virginia

I have the honor to submit for you information the subjoined statement, furnished by Mr. Lamb, Gov. Agent, of the number of slaves received and receipted for by him to present date, which have been impressed from the Counties called upon to furnish “slaves for labor on the fortification and other works necessary for the Public Defence,” under An Act of Assembly passed October 3, 1862.

County	Quota	Slaves Furnished	Deficit
Amherst	260	145	115
Albemarle	540	000	540
Appomattox	180	109	071
Bedford	450	274	176
Buckingham	300	204	096
Campbell	400	204	196
Charlotte	230	197	033
Cumberland	210	197	013
Fluvanna	140	101	039
Halifax	350	263	087
Louisa	350	241	109
Nelson	190	109	081
Pittsylvania	580	410	170
Prince Edward	320	303	017

Total Number of Slaves Called for 4500  
Total Number of Slaves Furnished 2757  
Total Number of Slaves Deficit 1743

You will observe that all of the Counties named in the list are delinquent, and none have furnished their full quota. Albemarle, thus far, has proved entirely delinquent. It is presumed that any of them which furnished laborers for the public defense under former calls have been credited in accordance with the Act of Assembly referred to, with the number so furnished.

In view however of the failure of most of these counties to respond as promptly and fully as it was anticipated they would do so, to the call made upon them, and the great and urgent necessity and importance of having the requisite force upon the works as earliest day practicable. I beg leave most respectfully to call your attention to the \_\_\_ Section of the Act of Assembly before mentioned, and to express the hope that your Excellency will cause the law to be enforced in every delinquent county.

It may be proper to remark that in some of the Counties, great imposition has been practiced (accidentally or unaccidentally it is to be hoped) by the owners sending slaves physically unfit for labor, and entirely worthless thereby subjecting the Government to much additional trouble and expense in returning them to their owners. It is to be hoped that your Excellency will as far as it is in your power, have this evil corrected and that the sheriff be instructed to impress none but able bodied men.

This deemed necessary in the opinion of Lt. Col. W. H. Steers, Chief Engineer Construction, to make a call for an additional force of 5,000 slaves to work on the fortifications, and in compliance with his request I have prepared a list of the Counties which will most probably be called upon to furnish this number, a copy of which I give herewith

Viz:

COUNTY	SLAVES	COUNTY	SLAVES
Augusta	250 slaves	Mecklenburg	300 slaves
Brunswick	225 slaves	Montgomery	100 slaves
Botetourt	100 slaves	Madison	200 slaves
Culpeper	200 slaves	Nottoway	200 slaves
Caroline	400 slaves	Orange	200 slaves
Essex	150 slaves	Patrick	075 slaves
Franklin	300 slaves	Pulaski	050 slaves
Fauquier	300 slaves	Page	025 slaves
Green	075 slaves	Prince William	050 slaves
Hanover	225 slaves	Rockbridge	150 slaves
Henry	225 slaves	Rockingham	100 slaves
King William	100 slaves	Rappahannock	150 slaves
King & Queen	150 slaves	Roanoke	100 slaves
Lunenburg	150 slaves	Spotsylvania	350 slaves
Stafford	100 slaves		
Total Slaves Called for		5,000	
Deduct – Fauquier, Prince William and Stafford		450	
Balance		4,550	

I have the honor to be  
 Very Respectfully  
 Your Obedient Servant  
 John B. Standard  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Engineers

**Office of Richmond & York River Rail Road Company November 20<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Box #23, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**  
**To Governor Letcher**

My Dear Sir:

I received the enclosed from Major Berkley. I know Major B. well and know that his statement may be relied upon. If you act upon his suggestion, send the convict his note.

Respectfully truly yours  
 Ro: L: Montaque

**Prince William County, October 6<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Box #23, Folder 6, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Dear Montaque,

I am lying here wounded near home & am harassed daily by hearing of raids made by squads of Yankees picking up our sick & wounded men through this County. They took one of our sick Lieutenants out of a bed at my house some 2 weeks ago & forced him off on horseback & he dropped from his horse & died before they had gotten 20 miles. If I could get a proper man to make up a party in these mountains I could put a stop to it completely.

If Governor Letcher will release William Sinclair who has nearly completed his term of imprisonment in the Penitentiary he could now render his Country efficient service. He is a very determined man, a splendid rifle shot

& could raise a party of efficient men to follow him. He was sentenced for five years to the Penitentiary for killing a man in a drunken quarrel & will be out in May next. If you can get him released please do so as you may rest assured you will be serving our cause greatly by putting a man against the enemy who will be worth 10 common men. If you succeed in having him released tell him it was at my intercession & get him to report to me at once as I have a long range rifle for him. I am getting on pretty well with my wound, which is not dangerous but will lame me for some time.

Truly your friend  
 Edmund Berkeley  
 Maj. 8<sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.

**Richmond Virginia**

**Box 24, Folder 5, Accession #36787, RG-3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Letcher**

**House of Delegates of Virginia 1861 – 2**

Accomack -	G. T. Garrison	Albemarle -	Frank Minor, M. L. Anderson
Alexandria -	Wm. G. Cazenove	Alleghany -	Samuel Carpenter
Amelia -	Richard Irby	Amherst -	Jno. Dudley Davis
Appomattox -	Thomas H. Flood	Augusta -	Hugh W. Sheffey, Wm. M. Tate & James Walker
Barbour -	Wm. Johnson	Barbour -	William Johnson
Bath -	Samuel Carpenter	Buchanan -	not given
Boone -	Isaac McDonald	Berkeley -	B. L. Kitchen & ___ Small
Bedford -	Edw. Burks & Alex. Jordan	Braxton -	Duncan McLaughlin
Botetourt -	Jno. Anderson, Green James	Brunswick -	R. M. Mallory
Brooke -	Wm. H. Crothers	Cabell -	Albert Laidley
Buckingham -	P. W. McKinney	Cumberland -	Ro. Dabney
Calhoun -	T. A. Williams	Caroline -	George Tyler
Campbell -	R. C. Saunders, R. J. Davis	Charles City -	V. Vaden
Carroll -	William Kyle	Chesterfield -	Charles T. Friend
Charlotte -	Wood Bouldin	Clay -	Duncan McLaughlin
Clarke -	William A. Bradford	Culpeper -	James Barbour
Craig -	Jno Anderson, Green James	Doddridge -	not given
Dinwiddie -	Henry C. Worsham	Essex -	George T. Wright
Elizabeth City -	Jas. W. Eustis	Fauquier -	J. M. Forbes, Richard Payne
Fairfax -	O. W. Hunt	Floyd -	Valentine Thrash
Fayette -	John J. Coleman	Franklin -	Peter Saunders Jr, Andrew Brooks
Fluvanna -	R. E. Nelson	Giles -	Wm. Eggleston
Frederick -	G. W. Ward, M. R. Kaufman	Gloucester -	Warner T. Jones
Gilmer -	T. A. Williams	Grayson -	Samuel McCamaut
Goochland -	Jno. C. Rutherford	Greene -	Jno. L. Woolfolk
Greenbrier -	Mason Mathews	Hancock -	G. Mac. Porter
Hampshire -	A.W.McDonald Jr., Chas Blue	Hardy -	Charles Williams
Hanover -	Francis G. Taylor	Henrico -	Z. S. McGruder
Harrison -	J. C. Vance, J. D. Davis	Highland -	Wm. W. Fleming
Henry -	Jno. F. Wootten	Isle of Wight -	James L. Wilson
Halifax -	Jno. R. Edmonds, Geo. H. West	Jackson -	Daniel Frost
James City -	V. Vaden	Kanawha -	JamesH. Brown, ___ Ruffner
Jefferson -	A. R. Boteler, Andrew Hunter	King William -	J. H. Daniel
King & Queen -	George T. Wright	Lee -	James Bayse
Lancaster -	Addison L. Carter	Logan -	Isaac McDonald
Lewis -	G. J. Arnold	Louisa -	Wm. G. T. Nelson
Loudoun -	Burr Noland, Matthew Harrison	Madison -	Jas. L. Kemper
Lunenburg -	Jno. Orgain Jr.	Marshall -	R. Swan
Marion -	F. H. Smith, Richard Fast	Matthews -	A. B. Evans
Mason -	Lewis Wetzel		

Mecklenburg -	Wm. Baskervill	Mercer -	R. A. Richardson
Middlesex -	A. B. Evans	Monongalia -	Jos. Snider, Leroy Kramer
Monroe -	Wilson Lively, Jno. Rowan	Montgomery -	Rice D. Montague
Morgan -	not given	Nansemond -	Nathaniel Riddick
Nelson -	H. N. Coleman Jr.	New Kent -	V. Vaden
Northumberland -	Addison L. Carter	Nicholas -	Duncan McLaughlin
Nottoway -	Richard Irby	Norfolk City -	Richard Baker Jr.
Norfolk Co. -	Sam'l Murdaugh, Sam'l Wilson	Northampton -	E. J. Spady
Ohio -	Andrew Wilson, Thomas Logan	Orange -	Jno. L. Woolfolk
Page -	John R. Booten	Patrick -	John Staples
Pendleton -	James Boggs	Petersburg -	Charles F. Collier
Pittsylvania -	Jno Gilmer, A. S. Buford	Pleasants -	not given
Pocahontas -	Jas. Lockridge	Powhatan -	Ro. Dabney
Preston -	Wm. B. Zinn, Chas. Hooten	Princess Anne	not given
Prince Edward -	T. T. Treadway	Prince George -	George E. Rives
Prince William -	Seymour Lynn	Pulaski -	Jno G. Cecil
Putnam -	not given	Randolph -	not given
Raleigh -	John J. Coleman	Rappahannock -	Jno. G. Fletcher
Richmond City -	Jno O. Steger, Wyndham Robertson & Thomas H. Wynne	Richmond Co. -	Willoughby Newton
Roane -	Daniel Frost	Ritchie -	not given
Rockbridge -	S. M. Reid, Francis Anderson	Roanoke -	Colin Bass
Russell -	Isaac Vermillion	Rockingham -	Chas. Grattan, John C. Woodson & John H. Hopkins
Scott -	Jas. Franklin	Shenandoah -	Philip Pitman, John Gatewood
Stafford -	J. H. Daniel	Surry -	George E. Rives
Sussex -	William T. Lundy	Smyth -	Charles J. Shannon
Southampton -	Joseph H. Prince	Spotsylvania -	Douglas H. Gordon
Taylor -	not given	Tazewell -	Harvey George, Thos. Gillespie
Tucker -	not given	Tyler -	not given
Upshur -	D. T. t. Farnsworth	Warren -	Samuel W. Thomas
Washington -	David B. Clarke	Wayne -	David Dunn
Warwick -	Jas. W. Eustis	Wirt -	T. A. Williams
Wise -	James Franklin	Williamsburg -	Jas. W. Eustis
Westmoreland -	Willoughby Newton	Wyoming -	Isaac McDonald
Wood -	John W. Moss	Wythe -	Robert Crockett
York -	Jas. W. Eustis		

**Richmond Va., April 7<sup>th</sup> 1863**  
**Governors Executive Papers – Letcher**  
**Box 26, Folder 1**  
**Governors Proclamation for Election**

By the Governor of Virginia a Proclamation

By the Ordinances of the Convention and the laws of this Commonwealth it is prescribed that elections shall be held on the fourth Thursday of May next, being the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month for the following officers, to wit:

For the election of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, and for members of the House of Representatives of the Confederate States for each Congressional District in this State. In these elections the qualified voters of all the Counties, Cities and Election Districts entitled to Representation in the Commonwealth may vote at the several places of voting prescribed by law, and also the qualified voters who may be in the military service of the State or of the Confederate States may vote at such place or places within the Regiment as the Commandant of such Regiment shall designate, whether such regiment be within the limits of this state or not; the qualified voters in any company or battalion unattached, or on detached service may vote in like manner: And the qualified voters of any county or Corporation absent thereupon because of the presence of the public enemy may vote at the Courthouse of any County or Corporation in the State where they may happen to be on the day of said Elections.

For the election of a Member of the Board of Public Works for the third district. In this election the qualified voters of the following counties and cities are entitled to vote: Viz

The Counties of Prince William, Alexandria, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Jefferson, Clarke, Warren, Page, Shenandoah, Hardy, Frederick, Hampshire, Berkeley, Morgan, Pendleton, Randolph, Barbour, Upshur, Tucker, Braxton, Lewis, Doddridge, Tyler, Wetzel, Marshall, Ohio, Brooke, Hancock, Ritchie, Gilmer, Wood, Wirt, Mason, Jackson, & Pleasants. Also the qualified voters of any County or Corporation of said district absent there from because of the presence of the public enemy may vote at the Courthouse of any county or corporation in the State where they may happen to be on the day of said election.

For the election of the Senators in the State Senate for the second class, being the counties, cities and election districts composing the first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, eleventh, thirteenth, fifteenth, seventeenth, nineteenth, twenty-first, twenty-third, twenty-fifth, twenty-seventh, twenty-ninth, thirty-first, thirty-third, thirty-fifth, thirty-seventh, thirty-ninth, forty-first, forth-third, forth-fifth, forty-seventh, and forty-ninth districts as designated in the fourth section of the fourth article of the constitution of the State. And for the election of members of the House of Delegates for all the Counties, Cities and Election districts in the State entitled to representation. In these elections the qualified voters who are authorized to vote in the election of Governor, as herein before designated, are also entitled to vote.

Therefore I, John Letcher, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, by virtue of authority vested in the Executive by law, do hereby proclaim and make known that all the elections, herein before mentioned, shall take place on the day designated, at the places prescribed and in the mode prescribed by law; and, in conformity to a request made by me. The President of the Confederate States has issued an order to all Commandants of camps, posts and detachments in Command of Virginia Troops, requiring them to give their aid in the due execution of the ordinance of the Convention and of this act providing for these elections.

Superintendents of elections at Military posts who may be appointed to conduct any of said elections, by making requisitions upon the public printer, stating the number of voters who will probably be polled in the election to be held by them, will be furnished with poll books properly headed and with extinct from the laws necessary for their direction and guidance.

The Act of Assembly and Ordinance of the Convention therein referred to are appended to this proclamation. Officers civil and military will be regulated by the requirements therein prescribed.

Given under my hand as Governor and under the seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1863 in the 87<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

John Letcher

By a joint resolution of the General Assembly passed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March last it is provided "that in such of the Counties of the Commonwealth as are in the occupation of the public enemy so that the session of the County Court cannot be held therein & commissioners of elections cannot be appointed it shall be lawful should such counties be temporarily or otherwise restored to our control on the day of the next ensuing elections & the County Court shall not have time to act for any Justice of the Peace to appoint commissioners of elections & cause such elections to be held in pursuance of the laws now in force."

By an act passed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March last it is provided "that whenever by reason of the presence or power of the public enemy no election can be held at the courthouse of any county it shall be lawful for the Commissioners or freeholders present & agreeing to act as commissioners at any regular place of voting in said county to appoint a conductor at such place if none be present, who shall be vested with the same powers & take the same oaths, be subject to the same penalties & perform the same duties as now provided by law.

**Camp near Petersburg, March 8<sup>th</sup> 1863**  
**Letter from Edmund Berkeley for Sinclair**  
**Box #27, Folder 4, Accession # 36787, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Letcher**

Gov. Letcher, Dear Sir.

I see that you have been pleased during the past 12 months to pardon several convicts who have partly served out their several terms of imprisonment in the Penitentiary. This has emboldened me to lay before you the case of one which has nearly completed his term of imprisonment and whose family being without our lines is now in a state of suffering for the common necessities of life. I refer to the case of Wm. Sinclair of Fauquier County who was sentenced to a term of 5 years imprisonment for the killing of Mr. Huet in a drunken quarrel & whose term will expire in the month of May next. Sinclair has a large family & provisions are so high that they are in a needy

condition. As I know they living near me. Sinclair is a stout able bodied man a splendid rifle shot & would make a good soldier would I am sure like to take a part against his Countries Enemies before this war is concluded. Believing his to be a suitable case for the exercise of your Clemency I would respectfully call your attention to it.

Respectfully Yours,  
Edmund Berkeley  
Major 8<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vol.

**April 7<sup>th</sup> 1863, Richmond Virginia**

**Proclamation for Election**

**Governors Executive Papers**

**Box 26, Folder 1**

**By the Governor of Virginia a Proclamation**

By the ordinances of the Convention and the laws of this Commonwealth it is prescribed that elections shall be held on the fourth Thursday of May next, being the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month for the following offices, to wit:

For the election of a Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, and for members of the House of Representatives of the Confederate States for each congressional district in this state. In these elections the qualified voters of all the Counties, Cities, and Election Districts entitled to representation in the Commonwealth may vote at the several places of voting prescribed by law, and also the qualified voters who may be in the military service of the State or of the Confederate States may vote at such place or places within the Regiment as the Commandant of such Regiment shall designate, whether such regiment be within the limits of this state or not; the qualified voters in any company or battalion unattached, or on detached service may vote in like manner: And the qualified voters of any county or Corporation absent thereupon because of the presence of the public enemy may vote at the Court House of any County or Corporation in the State where they may happen to be on the day of said election.

For the election of a member of the Board of Public Works for the third district. In this election the qualified voters of the following counties and cities are entitled to vote: Viz, The counties of Prince William, Alexandria, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Jefferson, Clark, Warren, Page, Shenandoah, Hardy, Frederick, Hampshire, Berkeley, Morgan, Pendleton, Randolph, Barbour, Upshire, Tucker, Roane, Harrison, Preston, Monongalia, Marion, Taylor, Braxton, Lewis, Doddridge, Tyler, Wetzel, Marshall, Ohio, Brooke, Hancock, Ritchie, Gilmer, Wood, Wirt, Mason, Jackson, & Pleasants. Also the qualified voters of any county or corporation of said district absent there from because of the presence of the public enemy may vote at the Court House of any county or corporation in the state where they may happen to be on the day of said election.

For the election of the senators in the State Senate for the second class, being the counties, cities, and election districts composing the first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, eleventh, thirteenth, fifteenth, seventeenth, nineteenth, twenty-first, twenty-third, twenty-fifth, twenty-seventh, twenty-ninth, thirty-first, thirty-third, thirty-fifth, thirty-seventh, thirty-ninth, forty-first, forty-third, forty-fifth, forty-fifth, forty-seventh and forty-ninth districts as designated in the fourth section of the fourth article of the Constitution of the State. And for the election of members of the House of Delegates for all the Counties, Cities and Electing districts in the State entitled to representation. In these elections the qualified voters who are authorized to vote in the election of Governor, as herein before designated, are also entitled to vote.

Therefore I John Letcher, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, by virtue of authority vested in the Executive by law do hereby proclaim and make known that all the elections, hereinbefore mentioned, shall take place on the day designated, at the places prescribed and in the mode prescribed by law; and in conformity to a request made by me, the President of the Confederate States has issued an order to all commandants of camps, posts and detachments in command of Virginia Troops, requiring them to give their aid in the due execution of the ordinance of the convention and of this act providing for these elections.

Superintendents of Elections at Military Posts who may be appointed to conduct any of said elections, by making requisitions upon the public printer, stating the number of voters who will properly be polled in the election to be held by then, will be furnished with poll books properly headed and with extracts from the laws necessary for their direction and guidance. [Insert paper marked A]

The Act of Assembly and Ordinance of the Convention therein referred to are appended to this proclamation. Officers civil and military will be regulated by the requirements therein prescribed.

Given under my hand as Governor and under the seal  
of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of  
April 1863 in the 87<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth

John Letcher

**July 1<sup>st</sup> 1863, Richmond Virginia**  
**List of Prisoners in State Penitentiary**  
**Box 27, Folder #1**  
**Governors Executive Papers – Letcher**

Penitentiary of Virginia, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1863 – The following named and described Free Negroes Convicts, and Slave Transports were this day delivered to Joseph R. Anderson & Company to be employed in the manufacture of Iron & C & C at the works of said Anderson & Company in the County of (blank) in pursuance of a contract entered into between the said Joseph T. Anderson & Company and his Excellency the Governor of Virginia dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 1863 – Twelve in Number

James Bradley – November 28<sup>th</sup> 1855 sentenced at Petersburg to 20 years for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, age 42 years, black complexion, black hair, black eyes, 5 foot 4 ½ inches high, scar over the right eye on forehead.

George Dade – September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1857 sentenced at Prince William County to 10 years for burglary, age 30 years, complexion yellow, black hair, greenish gray eyes, 5 foot 4 ½ inches high, small scar on upper lip, also one at the root of the nail on 2<sup>nd</sup> finger of left hand.

William Cook – March 20<sup>th</sup> 1863 sentenced at Rockingham County to 2 years for felony in stealing pork, age 25 years, mulatto complexion, black eyes, dark hazel eyes, 5 foot 5 ½ inches high, one scar on the back of the left hand, and one on the right knee, and a half circle in indi--- on the right arm just below the elbow.

Joseph Graves alias Joseph Green – March 30<sup>th</sup> 1863 sentenced at Petersburg to 1 ½ years for felony in stealing goods, age 21 years, black complexion, black hair, black eyes, 5 foot 6 inches high, no visible scars.

Thomas Brooke – March 32 1863 sentenced at Page County to 1 year for unlawful shooting, age 27 years, mulatto complexion, black hair, hazel eyes, 5 foot 7 ½ inches high, one small scar near the right corner of the chin, three small scars on the right knee, and two on the left knee, one flesh mold on the breast, one on the right shoulder blade, and two on the left side of the back.

James Burns – May 9<sup>th</sup> 1863 sentenced at Augusta County to 5 years for aiding slaves to escape, age 53 years, dark ginger bread complexion, black hair, black eyes, 5 foot 2 ½ inches high, one large ----- scar on each jaw caused from being scalded, two small scars on the breast from the same cause, one scar in the palm of the left hand produced by a mash, the scar on the left jaw extends up to and behind the left ear also extends some distance under the throat.

James Beverly – May 31<sup>st</sup> 1863 sentenced at Greenbrier County to 3 years for felony in stealing a horse, age 26 years, mulatto complexion, black hair, brown eyes, 5 foot 9 inches high, a small scar on the upper lip, a scar on the right foot running towards the ankle also one on the left foot running from the toes towards the ankle, both produced from a cut, two scars on the right arm below the elbow produced from a pistol shot passing entirely through the arm.

George Hale – June 16<sup>th</sup> 1863 sentenced at Albemarle County to 3 years for felony in stealing a horse, age 22 years, black hair, mulatto complexion, black eyes, 5 foot 3 ¼ inches high, one large scar on the inside of the right leg near and below the knee from a cut, one large scar on the outside of the left leg half way between the knee and ankle from an axe cut.

John – April 25<sup>th</sup> 1860 sentenced at Albemarle County to transportation, age 18 years, bright mulatto complexion, light sandy hair, gray eyes, 5 foot 5 ½ inches high, one scar on the joint of the right wrist and one small scar just below the elbow of the left arm.

Joe Davis – August 18<sup>th</sup> 1862 sentenced at Danville to 3 years for grand larceny, age 28 years, mulatto complexion, black hair, black eyes, 5 foot 8 inches high, one scar on the right arm and one small scar at the outer corner of the left eye.

Moses – October 17<sup>th</sup> 1862 sentenced at Charlotte County to transportation, crime not stated, 17 years old, dark ginger bread complexion, black hair, black eyes, 5 foot 3 ½ inches high, one scar on the left leg between the ankle & the knee from a burn & a small scar on the forehead between the eyes.

Jake – November 25<sup>th</sup> 1862 sentenced at Pulaski County to transportation, crime not stated, 25 years of age, mulatto complexion, dark hair, dark hazel eyes, 5 foot 7 ¾ inches high, one small scar over the right eye on the forehead and one small scar on the inner side of the left leg over the ankle bone and belonged when condemned to Samuel Crockett's estate.

I have the above mentioned Negroes examined by the surgeon of the penitentiary who reports them sound and healthy. They can be well spared from the penitentiary, and if approved by the Governor may be hired to Messrs. Joseph R. Anderson & Company under such rules and contract as he may order.

Colin Bass, Capt. Penity

**Richmond, VA., July 16<sup>th</sup> 1863**  
**Confederate States of America War Department**  
**Letter from Secretary of War**  
**Box 27, Folder #1**  
**Governors Executive Papers – Letcher**

His Excellency John Letcher, Governor of Virginia, Richmond

Sir, I have the honor to state that the letter of Thos. B. Balch relative to natives of New Jersey residents in the County of Prince William, Va. And in regard to the impressments of their horses, submitted by you, had been referred to the General Co-----dg? The Department with instructions to give protection to these people. The horses impressed will be paid for by the Quarter Master under the provisions of the Impressments Act.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
James A. Seddon  
Secretary of War

**September 21<sup>st</sup> 1863**  
**Box 27, Folder 6**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Letcher**

Resolved – That the Secretary of the Commonwealth be instructed to inform the Senate, from the returns of the census for the year 1860, filed in his office, what number of White Male inhabitants there are in those portions of the Commonwealth not now in the possession of the Public Enemy between the ages of 16 and 18, and 45 and 60 years, respectably.

Agreed to by Senate  
Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 1863  
Shelton C. Davis C.

**Travellers Rest Spotsylvania Co.**  
**September 28<sup>th</sup> 1863**  
**Box 28, Folder 2**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Letcher**

Dear Sir,

I have been a refugee from home (Fauquier County) over two months to try & save something in the way of my stock. But so far as pecuniary matters are concerned the Enemy had as well taken it from me I have been a farmer (on not an extensive scale) nearly all my life. Having married early we have raised ten children some of which are of tender age & I was compelled to leave my wife & six children in the hands or within the lines of the Yankees. Two sons F. M. & E. M. Suddoth have lost their lives in defence of Southern Rights. The former through your kindness was placed in position at Gloucester Point at the commencement of the war and was made Adjutant of the 26<sup>th</sup> Va. Regt. The other Edgar M. volunteered in Camden Arkansas in a company called City Guards & I have received not a line from him & I am unprepared to inform you his Regt. The supposition is the bullet or disease has robbed us too of him. And now with a large & expensive family I am thrown out on the merciless world to try & raise the other boys as well as my daughters & if possible keep them together. For I can assure you I do not expect if I have a home left my family, anything else has been left whereon to subsist, although I left a good crop of wheat, for what I sowed last fall & also an abundance of hay, oats, corn & buckwheat, and a much larger crop of potatoes than usual. All of which I understand has been swept by the merciless invader. And now I call upon you if within your power to give me some place suited to my age & capacity whereby some help can be given my family by way of my actions as well as to serve my country in this hour of her need. I am as capable of performing ordinary duty on horseback as most men of my age & too on foot for short distances. But owing to a very severe cut on my left leg, just below the knee, which was the principal cause of my resignation as Capt. of a Company raised at Morrisville, Fauquier County early in the war (which company is now in service) causes a lameness where I have to exercise heavily. I am thus specific on account of making you fully acquainted with my fiscal ability. And now for the past. I have been an uncompromising States Rights Democrat, which my votes will attest all through my life. I am in

favor of holding the agents of the Government both state & National to the strictest accountability. I am in favor of making our Confederate Money good if needs be by pledging our real estate & to put down extortion at all hazards. Your own good judgment tells you how the invaded & desolated negroes of the Confederacy are wrought upon by a deprecated currency & by the extortions. I will give you an illustration as briefly as possible. The Refugee in fleeing from his home desires if possible to save something for his loved ones. He hurriedly moves off what of his effects he best can before the approaching enemy within the lines of the Confederacy & there disposes of it. The first offer frequently exceeds greatly his most sanguine expectations. He then cut off from his family & his home & is soon drowned by a constant drain on his Confederate Money at the rate of from 2 to 5 cents per meal & everything is proportion. His little all goes. The Enemy takes what is left behind & then comes the trying hour! He & his family are reduced to the necessity of processions the necessaries of life at any cost. He is now if unfit for a soldier thrown upon the cold charity of his Southern Friends to whom he has fled. And his family stripped & I have been told, compelled, to draw rations from the robbers of their substance to keep life & soul together & too at a sacrifice of having to take the oath of allegiance to a government repugnant in every sense of the word to their best reason & judgment. I did not intend to trespass on your time when I commenced. But my feelings have led me off for which I hope you will pardon me. You were so good as to tell me in April last, that you would gladly serve me should I need your assistance. Now my Dear Sir, I wish to be placed in some sphere in which I can work for the good of my Country as well as my family. Since I have been broken up on my farm & my best prospects lade wasted I again have resolved to do or to die. I hope you will condescend to answer my hastily & badly connected letter as soon as possible. (Orange Court House Va.)

May God in his mercy direct our counsels & fit & prepare us all for any emergency to which our Country's good may call us.

Your Friend & Obedient Servant  
James T. Suddoth

**Prince William County, October 24<sup>th</sup> 1863**

**Application for Pardon of Reuben Able**

**Box 28, Folder 3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Letcher**

Virginia, Pleas at the Court House of Prince William County before the Circuit Court for said County on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty One.

Be it remembered that heretofore, to wit, at a Circuit Court held for the said County, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1860, John C. Weedon foreman, George A. Simpson, John Fair, James G. Draney, William W. Davis, Thomas Holmes, A. N. Doane, Christopher Windsor, \_ S. Lindsley, John Finch, John W. Davis, John Clark, George F. Carney, Benson Davis, Samuel Beavers and Lawrence Cole were sworn a Grand Jury of inquest for the body of this County and having received their charge withdrew and after some time returned into court and presented.

An Indictment against Reuben Able for Murder, a true bill which Indictment is in the words following to Wit:

“Ninth Judicial Circuit: Prince William County, to Wit: In the Circuit Court of said County, the jurors of the Commonwealth of Virginia in and for the body of the County of Prince William and now attending the said court, upon their oaths present that Reuben Able heretofore, to wit; on the twenty fifth day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty in the said County of Prince William in and upon one Thomas Luther Abel feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought did make an assault and that said Reuben Abel with a certain knife of the value of twenty five cents in his hand then & there held, the said Thomas Luther Abel in and upon the left side of the body of him the said Thomas Luther Abel then and there feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought did strike and thrust giving to the said Thomas Luther Abel then and there with the knife aforesaid in and upon the aforesaid left side of the body of the said Thomas Luther Abel one mortal wound of the breath of one half inch and of the depth of four inches, of which said mortal wound he the said Thomas Luther Abel from the said twenty fifth day of August one thousand eight hundred and sixty in the County aforesaid did languish and languishing did live to the twenty sixth day of August in the year aforesaid; on which said twenty sixth day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty the said Thomas Luther Abel in the County aforesaid did of the said aforesaid wound die; and so the Jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say that the said Reuben Abel the said Thomas Luther Abel in manner and from aforesaid feloniously willfully and of his malice

aforethought did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia upon the information of John W. Groves, Jas H. Sutherland and \_\_\_ W. Wheat of Prince William County. Sworn and sent to give evidence to the Grand Jury by the Court.

M. Fitzhugh  
October 8<sup>th</sup> 1860

Eppa Hunton, Attorney for the Commonwealth of said County

And thereupon the said Reuben Abel was led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of the court, thereof arraigned and pleaded not guilty to the Indictment. Whereupon the trial of the said Reuben Abel is postponed until tomorrow and the said Reuben Abel is remanded to Jail.

And at another day, to wit: An the jury sworn aforesaid on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 1860 the said Reuben Abel was again led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of this court; whereupon the petition of the said Reuben Abel and for reasons appearing to the court his trial to postponed until the next term. And the said Reuben Abel is remanded to Jail.

And at another day to wit, At a Circuit Court held for the said County on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1861. The said Reuben Abel was again led to the bar in custody of the Jailor of this court and the attorney for the Commonwealth being absent and for reasons appearing to the court the trial is deferred until the next term upon the application of the Commonwealth.

And now at this day to wit: At a Circuit Court held for the said County at the Court House, on the same day and year first mentioned to wit; on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1861 Reuben Abel late of the County of Prince William, who stands indicted of murder was again led to the bar in custody of the Sheriff of this County, whereupon came a jury to wit; Jno Sullivan, Thomas J. Simpson, James H. Moore, William A. Bryant, Samuel R. Lowe, Robert T. Hooe, John H. Butler, John H. Purcell, Robert C. Weir, James Florance, Minor Fairfax, and John Keys who being elected, tried, and sworn the truth of and upon the promises to speak and having heard the evidence, upon their oath do say, that the said Reuben Able is not guilty of murder, but that he is guilty of voluntary manslaughter and they do ascertain the term of his imprisonment in the public jail and penitentiary house, to be three years, and thereupon, it being demanded of him, if anything for himself he had or knew to say why the court here should not now proceed to pronounce judgment against him according to law, and nothing being offered or alleged in delay of judgment, it is considered by the court, that the said Reuben Abel be imprisoned in the Public Jail and Penitentiary house of this Commonwealth for the term of three years, the period by the jurors on their verdict ascertained; and is ordered, that the Sheriff of this County do, as soon as possible after the adjournment of this court remove and safely convey the said Reuben Abel from the Jail of this County to the said Public Jail and Penitentiary House therein to be kept imprisoned and treated in the manner directed by law. And the court doth certify, that on the trial of the said Reuben Abel nothing appeared to the court either in aggravation or extenuation of the offence of the said Reuben Abel nor did it appear that before the Commission of the said offence he was of good or bad character or that he had ever been convicted or tried for any felony or other infamous crime. And thereupon, the said Reuben Abel is remanded to Jail.

Teste – Wm. E. Lipscomb, Cl. Pro. Tem.

(No Evidence taken down in this Court)

October 24<sup>th</sup> 1863

Letter from Governor Letcher in answer to the above case.

Reuben Able charged with murder was indicted in the Circuit Court for Prince William County, at the October term 1860. The trial did not take place at the term at which the indictment was found, in consequence of a continuance moved for by the prisoner. At the succeeding Spring term the Commonwealth moved for a continuance, because of the absence of the Attorney for the Commonwealth. The trial was had at the October term 1861, the prisoner was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, and was sentenced to imprisonment for three years in the penitentiary. The prisoner is upwards of sixty years of age, badly ruptured, infirm and in ill health, and a charge upon the institution. Since his confinement his conduct as a prisoner has been good. He has four sons in our army who have proved themselves good soldiers, and who now ask for the pardon of their father. In consideration of the good conduct of the sons, the age and infirmity of the father, and of the fact that he has been confined in jail and the penitentiary since the month of August 1860. I direct his discharge.

John Letcher